



IMPACT

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

Business before Hours

April 8 | 7:30 a.m.
Fish City Grill, Southlands

Lunch 'n Learn

Facebook 101, 201, 301, & 401

April 9, 16, 23, 30 | 11:30 a.m.
Aurora Chamber Conference Room B

Safety Committee

April 10 | 8:30 a.m.
Pinnacol Assurance, Lowry

Chamber Awards Banquet

April 17 | 6 p.m.
Red Lion Hotel, Parker & I-225

Business after Hours

April 23 | 4:30 p.m.
City Lights Apartments, Sable & 4th

MAY

Business before Hours

May 13 | 7:30 a.m.
Life Care Center (14101 E. Evans)

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

May 15 | 11 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel (I-70 & Chambers)

Business after Hours

May 21 | 4:30 p.m.
SpringHill Suites DIA (18350 E. 68th Ave.)

Memorial Day

May 25 – Chamber closed



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!

Prepare for attack on small business community — Employee Free Choice Act

Federal legislators including Colorado Senators and Representatives are under pressure to rewrite labor law that will have a huge impact on the way small business is conducted. The impact? Your employees will no longer be able to hear from you regarding matters that affect their jobs. Half of your employees will lose their right to speak up for themselves. As a business owner, you will lose the ability to give your employees raises for a job well done, provide health care benefits you can afford and discuss workplace standards with your employees in order to meet their needs. How can Congress even consider a bill that sounds this bad? Simple - call it the Employee Free Choice Act.

President Obama's hard-charging chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, says that you should "never allow a crisis to go to waste." Big labor appears to be heeding that advice. It's trying to sell the badly misnamed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) — better known as card check — as a cure to rising unemployment and the ticket to a better life for the middle class.

The unions are also insisting that the legislation be

rammed through Congress as quickly as possible before the economic crisis passes or Americans discover the real facts about what it would do. Namely, it would effectively eliminate secret ballot elections in unionization votes and, through binding arbitration, give government authorities the power to dictate wages, benefits, and other

fundamental business operations.

"We think the legislation as currently written would curtail the rights of both employees and employers and would hamper economic recovery and growth," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO. "As an organization representing hundreds of businesses from across the eastern metro area, we are encouraging our membership to oppose EFCA." Hougen said Colorado made the right choice when it chose to continue under the Labor Peace Act. "I think the cooler heads in Colorado understood that businesses and labor unions both could work well under this great umbrella that has covered our relations for more than 65 years."

A new study, which was conducted by the nonpartisan consulting firm LECG, determined that card check



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Awards Banquet to honor best in area

The selection committee has met and after reviewing more than 40 nominations has chosen the best business and community leaders the Aurora and the Eastern Metro area has to offer.

The selections for Business of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Chamber Leadership, Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year, Community Leadership, Business for the Arts and Small Businessperson of the Year will be formally announced at the Annual Awards Banquet on April 17.

The social event of the season will be held at the Red Lion Hotel SE and will feature one of the best silent auctions of the year (more than 100 items to bid on), a superb dinner including carefully selected wine and great fun as this year's winners will see their life flash before their eyes on the big screen prior to the award. "This is like an Oscar night," said Kevin Hougen, President and CEO of the Chamber and himself a past award winner (1993 Community Leadership). "You get to see who really has had an impact here during the last year. And the list of past winners, which stretches back to 1955, reads like a 'Who's Who' in Aurora."

The evening will also feature installation of the new Chamber Board Chair and introduction of new Board Directors.

Activities begin at 6 p.m. at the "black tie encouraged" event. Advance reservations, which can be made by calling 303-344-1500 or by going online at www.aurorachamber.org, are required. A limited number of tables are still available by calling Naomi Colwell at The Chamber.

"If you only do one big event during the year, this is the one you won't want to miss," Hougen said.



Unsung Heroes Burridge, Brockman recognized



So proud— Denise Brockman of **Fish City Grill**, Winner of the Business Unsung Heroes Award is surrounded by proud members of the Women in Business Executive Committee. From left to right are Cheryl Derman, Brockman, Marci Sis and WIB Chair, Patie Jansen with **Strategic Insight Solutions**. (Photo by Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)

Aimed at recognizing those women who work quietly behind the scenes to make their organization or community better, the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance** and the Women in Business Committee's annual "Women Making a Difference" general membership luncheon was a significant success.

More than 250 people attended the luncheon which not only served as an award ceremony but as a platform for well-known speaker Laura Stack, The Productivity Pro, who strongly encouraged women to remember the important things in life and showed them ways to be more productive with limited time.

Eighteen women were nominated for the special awards that bring to light those who quietly make a significant impact on their communities or corporations. The Women in Business committee singled out two of them for special recognition, **Denise Brockman** with **Fish City Grill** who was selected as the Business Unsung Hero; and the **Gateway Rotary Club**-nominated Diane Burridge, who was chosen as Community Unsung Hero.

Other Business nominees were: Kimberly Armitage, Shirley Harris, Felicia Stanton, Dr. Robin Waterman and

Dr. Wendy Wendover. Community nominees included Melanie Boat, Jasmin Espy, Michele Forto, Angela Hutton-Thompson, Kelly Nelson, Susan Schafer, and Ashley Weatherly.

Finalists included Karen Terry with **Providers Resource Clearing House**, Linda Torres, Kendra Ingles and Courtney Morehouse with **Rural Metro Ambulance**.



Springtime is for winners – Displaying both her trophy and her bouquet of spring flowers, Diane Burridge shows a winner's smile at the Unsung Heroes Luncheon. Burridge was honored as the Community Unsung Hero at the annual event which singles out women who work effectively and quietly behind the scenes to make the community a better place. (Photo by Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)

A special "Thank you" to Barbara Peck with **In Your Element Photography** for photos from the days event. See all the photos on the Chamber website at www.aurorachamber.org.

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, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

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.

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Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union

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Dr. Linda Bowman | **Community College of Aurora**

Harrison Cochran | **Aurora Sentinel**

Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | **140th Wing COANG**

Tammy Fernandez | **University of Phoenix**

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Member News

Chamber Member debuts on The Learning Channel

Thomas Recke from **Pillar to Post** a home inspection company was featured on The Learning Channel program, "My First Home," during a home inspection in South East Aurora. Recke was able to identify significant water issues and substantial mold in the garage during the show. The TLC program showed how a first time home hunter got hooked on the first home she saw, and how the high price of the property and mold issues forced her to start her search all over. If you would like to see Recke in action go to www.tlc.discovery.com/tv-schedules/series.html?paid=2.14374.55975.31686.4

Arapahoe County appoints new Veterans Service Officer

Arapahoe County has appointed Corinne Hogg as the County Veterans Service Officer where she will oversee the programs that support veterans in obtaining their federal benefits. As a former Marine Corps NCO with eight years active duty, three years of reserve service, and past administrative chief With the Colorado Guard at **Buckley AFB**, she's no stranger to the life of a veteran.

"Corinne Hogg is incredibly well versed when it comes to serving veterans," said **Arapahoe County** Commissioner Jim Dyer. "Her broad range of experience will allow us to continue to serve the 50,000+ veterans living in **Arapahoe County**."

Hogg has spent years helping veterans in state and county systems. She has previously served with organizations such as the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment where she was Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist. Hogg is active in the local **United Veterans Committee**, The Chamber **Defense Council** and is a lifetime member of the American Legion, Woman's Marine Association, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Veterans in need of assistance can call 303-636-1190 or visit the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office, within Arapahoe/Douglas Works! at 5500 S. Quebec in Greenwood Village.

Kudos for Cookies

Hearts Across The Miles was once again selected to send girl scout cookies to deployed service members and veterans. The group spent a day packing up some **19,238** boxes of **Girl Scout Cookies** donated. In addition, 1000 pounds of coffee from local coffee shops were packaged up to give deployed troops a much needed cookie and coffee break. Founded by Air Force spouse Theresa Webster, **Hearts Across the Miles** continues to support troops and veterans locally and world wide. Additional information can be found at their website at www.heartsacrossthemiles.org.



Arapahoe/Douglas Works! receives the National Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award

The **Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce** Board was recognized as a Distinguished Honoree of the Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award by the National Association of Workforce Boards at its annual Forum on March 8, in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes top quality workforce investment boards around the nation that advance innovative partnerships with their business communities.

In early 2008, because of increasing environmental and energy concerns, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! formed a partnership with the Colorado Governor's Energy Office, the **Arapahoe County** Weatherization program, other local, state and federal agencies, and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Alliance to Save Energy.

The partnership, called the Youth Energy Conservation Corps, seeks to develop young men and women by providing paid and volunteer hands-on experiences in the emergent energy industry, and comprehensive education on career pathways within the new energy industry.

"This award demonstrates the ongoing creativity and innovation of our workforce center," said **Arapahoe County** Commissioner Jim Dyer. "It's partnerships like these that give our youth a head start in securing a bright and successful future."

Over the course of the year, the Youth Energy Conservation Corps will serve 37 young people with hands-on training and education in Energy career pathways. With each crew making three service calls per day, four days per week, nearly 470 Arapahoe and Adams County homes will be touched each year with Tier 1 energy audits generating annual energy savings of \$913,680.

To learn more about Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! call 303-636-1253 or visit <http://www.adworks.org/>.

New technology helps "green-up" business

A new Chamber member is bringing a unique way to not only save energy but to save electrical equipment as well.

Karrie Stewart with **Energy Conservation Products** brings specialized knowledge and equipment to small businesses in the metro area that protects critical electronic components such as computers, air conditioners, compressors, and refrigeration units.

Using specialized surge protection and harmonic filtering devices, Stewart says she can save electrical costs and equipment as well. For more information call Stewart at 720-935-8571.

Twenty-three receive scholarships



Best and the brightest – Twenty-three youngsters whose parents serve in the **Colorado National Guard** smile brightly knowing they now have a good financial start for their college years thanks to the **National Guard Association of Colorado Educational Foundation** headed up by Executive Director Bernie Rogoff. The students were awarded \$25,000 in tuition scholarship grants on February 14 at ceremonies at the **Denver Renaissance Hotel**. Board members present included Doug Hartman, National Defense Industrial Association; Rogoff; Brig. Gen.(Ret.) David Sprengle, President of the Foundation; Louise Rouse; and Lt. Darin Overstreet, who also serves as deputy director of the Public Affairs office of the **Colorado National Guard**.

(Photo courtesy of the Colorado National Guard)

Ribbon Cuttings



Careful Doc! — Wielding a set of Chamber-style surgical scissors, one of the nurse practitioners who will be supporting the new **The Little Clinic** at **King Soopers** and Heather Tseng, from the grocery chain show proper surgical procedure for a ribbon cutting. The convenient concept extending basic health care at the community level was reintroduced to the Metro area. **The Little Clinic** opened in the **King Soopers** located off Smoky Hill and Himalaya offering appointments (or not) and medical care with extended hours. It is staffed with Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, is open seven days a week—with extended hours, provides whole family care—from 12 months up for common family illnesses including vaccination. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Full of Culture — Members of the Business for the Arts committee attended showed The Chamber cultural flag at a recent **Colorado Business Committee** for the Arts awards luncheon, where Chamber Member **Kaiser Permanente** was among the winners.

Those in attendance included (l-r) Janice Cooper, Charlie Packard, Alice Lee Main, Jennifer Kuehner, Gene Jackson, Jason Alshuler and George Peck. Not pictured is photographer Brian Molitoris (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer).

Employee Free-Choice Act [continued from page 1]

legislation would negatively impact the landscape of the U.S. economy, increasing unemployment and stifling job growth for all Americans. In fact, the predicted increase of 1.5 million new union members in one year would lead to the loss of 600,000 jobs by the following year.

Additionally, a recent analysis conducted by labor experts at the U.S. Chamber found that increased unionization is anything but a ticket to the middle class. The states with the highest rates of union membership also have the lowest rates of job growth.

Why would Congress even consider passing such legislation? "I can give

you 450 million reasons," said Hougen. "That's how many dollars big labor shoveled into the 2008 elections. Now, it's payback time.

The U.S. Chamber in partnership with the Aurora Chamber is leading the fight against this power grab by the unions. "In these troubling and uncertain times, we know one thing for sure," Hougen stated. "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Card check would delay and undermine economic recovery, and that's why it must be defeated. Every worker should have the right to join or leave a union under fair rules. Card check is not fair—and it's not right for Colorado, nor for America."

HONORING MILITARY SERVICE

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

Join The Chamber, the City of Aurora, and the aerospace and business community as we salute the men and women of our Armed Forces: Active Duty, Guard and Reserve serving in the Aurora-Denver metro area

Friday, May 15 @ 11:00 am
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

Show our troops how much you appreciate them—
Call The Chamber today to make reservations **303-344-1500**

Corporate Sponsor: \$1500-Table: \$500-Individual: \$30

Aurora Chamber, Northrop Grumman combine to present Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

It started as a small event at the Officer's Club at Lowry Air Force Base more than 30 years ago to honor the soldier and airman of the year.

Today, the Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon presented by **Northrop Grumman** attracts more than 500 well-wishers who want to show that they appreciate the remarkable contributions the men and women in uniform that serve in units in and around the Aurora-Denver metro area.

The inspiring event is coordinated by The Chamber's Defense Council AFRL Committee headed by Suzanne Pitrusu from **Wells Fargo Bank**. "I've seen AFRL grow and am honored to help pull together our community to honor our troops," she said.

The luncheon not only recognizes the growing number of active duty service members here, it also reaches out to those who serve in the National Guard and the Reserve. It includes an award ceremony for our Military Persons of the Year—11 individuals who have been selected by their peers for their outstanding achievements over the past year. "We also recognize a member of the community who has contributed

significantly to building greater understanding and support of the military with the Bob Cardenas Award," said Craig Ward with, Chair of the Chamber Defense council.

"We've had tremendous help from the community," said Craig Ward of Padgett Business Services Chair of the Chamber Defense Council. "Businesses and organizations from throughout the metro area step up to help sponsor the kind of first class event that properly honors our men and women in uniform. I'm particularly touched by the many small business that contribute prizes for each of the winners. I think that speaks to the depth of the support we have out there."

The 2009 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon will be held on May 15 at 11 a.m., the day before Armed Forces Day, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on I-70 and Chambers. A formal flag ceremony kicks off the luncheon at 11:45 a.m.

Additional information is available by calling George Peck at the Aurora Chamber at 303-344-1500 or by going to The Chamber web site: www.aurorachamber.org

SAVE THE DATE
Leadership
AURORA
Graduation
June 4, 2009

Leadership
AURORA
Golf Tournament
June 18, 2009