



IMPACT

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Aurora Chamber Names Top Business and Community Leaders



Winners all! – This year's honorees at the Annual Awards Banquet are joined by Chamber Board Chair Craig Ward as they display their awards.
(l-r, back row): Shawn Cherry, Josh Oncay and Tim James (front row): Matt Cook, Brian Molitoris, Tim Huffman, Dwight Taylor, Kate Tauer, Craig Ward, Steve Sowin, Michael Mangino, Dumitri Palea and Ron Miller

Upcoming Events

Business Before Hours

May 12, 2010 | 7:30 a.m.
Garden Plaza of Aurora



Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

May 14, 2010 | 11 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA

Member Orientation

May 19, 2010 | 4 p.m.
The Chamber Offices

Business After Hours

May 27, 2010 | 5 p.m.
Holiday Inn Denver East – Stapleton

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It was a dazzling evening at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA** April 16, as The Aurora Chamber of Commerce honored the community's best at its 55th annual Awards Banquet. This year's winners are:

- **Ambassador of the Year** – Brian Molitoris, **Brian Molitoris, Photographer**
- **Business for the Arts Award** – Dwight Taylor, **Edwards & Taylor LLC**
- **Humanitarian of the Year** – Michael Mangino, **Aurora Police Officer**
- **Chamber Leadership Award** – Ron Miller, former city manager, **City of Aurora**
- **Community Leadership Award** – Tim Huffman, **Aurora Police Officer**
- **Small Businessperson of the Year** – Steve Sowin, owner, **Cinema Grill**
- **Businessperson of the Year** – Dumitri Palea, owner, **Dumitri's Family Restaurant and Sports Lounge**
- **Business of the Year** – Shawn Cherry, Michael Garcia, Josh Oncay and Tim James, proprietors, **Outback Steakhouse**
- **Man of the Year** – Matt Cook, president, **Aurora Public Schools**, Board of Education.
- **Woman of the Year** – Kate Tauer, former First Lady, **City of Aurora**

The awards were presented by last year's winners, Scott Mueller of **MuellerTime Designs**; Harrison Cochran, president and publisher of the **Aurora Sentinel**; Bob Waples, communications director of **Rural/Metro Ambulance**;

Suzanne Pitrusu, business relationship manager with **Wells Fargo Bank**; Tom Tobiasson, District F **RTD** Director; Frank Loner of **Chick-fil-A** at Town Center at Aurora; John Barry, superintendent of **Aurora Public Schools**; Joyce Rocha-Brown, marketing manager of **Southlands**; Cindy Kreutz, President and CEO of **Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital**; and **City of Aurora** Mayor Ed Tauer.

Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen hosted the gala evening that, in keeping with the International Aurora theme, featured several ethnic dance groups, eclectic international décor and food. He made a point of thanking the event's prime sponsors: **FirstBank of Aurora**, **Pinnacol Assurance**, **Wells Fargo Bank**, **Merrick & Company**, **Westerra Credit Union** and **IREA**.

Following presentation of the awards, Chamber Board Chair Craig Ward of **Padgett Business Services** turned his presidential gavel over to incoming Chair Mark Moses of **Outback Steakhouse**.

Ward thanked all who had contributed to his successful, albeit challenging, year including a special tribute to his friend and mentor Bob Barké. He concluded with a heartfelt acknowledgement of his wife and business partner Kathi for her decades of support. He also recognized the highly effective Board he had served with, and together with Moses announced the 2010-2011 Board:

- Rich Allison, senior vice president, **Adolfson & Peterson**
- Joe Barela, division manager, **Araphahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center**
- Bill Becker, executive director, **Adams County Economic Development**

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

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Craig Ward
Chair

Chair's Letter

This has been an incredible year serving as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce! Thanks to all of you for your membership in the Chamber. I hope that it's been an enjoyable and productive membership year.

What I've learned this past year is that the Chamber is not

and cannot be – the Chamber of 20 years ago. It is far more than a “ribbon cutting” organization! The Chamber does so much more for its members, and correspondingly requires more from its member in return. I've also come to appreciate how unique this Chamber is – how it truly is a partner to every business and citizen. As a member, you may not have time each month to answer hundreds of requests for information, or to help develop an aspiring entrepreneur. But let me assure you, that support is being provided by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

So how does this work? As business owners, managers, and employees, we all should realize that the largest negative impact on business can come from government. Your Chamber works constantly to stay on top of issues and to keep you informed. For example, on a local level the issue may be zoning or the cost of water. The Chamber will be at related meetings to ensure that people understand the business perspective.

On a state level, our lawmakers know they must balance the budget. This slow economy has caused a drop in revenue, and state government is looking for ways to increase income without saying “tax increase.” We are looking over their shoulders and informing them of the impact that any increase in fees or cost of permits will have to business owners – and what the consequences could be.

On the federal level, Health Care Reform, Cap and Trade, and Freedom of Choice Act are three major pieces of legislation being debated. Any one of them, once enacted, will have significant impact on business. Your Chamber has discussed the impacts of this legislation on business with Congressional leaders.

In short, The Chamber is working every day on your behalf with all levels of government. Go to any local meeting and there will probably be a representative from The Chamber in attendance. Our elected leaders know they need the support and input of businesses, and that they can't represent us without knowing our needs. We'll be reminding decision-makers that government doesn't create the wealth that turns our economy; they simply collect it and spend it. If you take successful business out of the equation there will be no more money to spend - no more roads, no more public art, no more schools....you get the idea. Successful business is what makes everything else possible, so let's make it possible for business to be successful!

With the economy in the early stages of recovery, we know how difficult it is to support our programs with both time and money. But the work that the Chamber does is important and worth your investment. It is also imperative to financially support your fellow businessmen and women. They are part of our team and many of them actively participate in our Chamber committees. That means they are taking time away from their business to help all of us. We are all in this together, and that is what has been so rewarding this year – to see fellow business members come together as the “voice of business” in our community.

As I wrap things up, I especially want to thank my hard working fellow board members, the Chamber staff and especially you, the members, for making this past 12 months such a great experience. I know that the Chamber values the opportunity to perform the critical function of being the respected voice of business in the community, and values your partnership as this mission is executed.

My hope for all of you is that we will rise above the challenges to meet our goals both individually and collectively to grow a stronger and more prosperous community. Now get out there and be successful!

Thanks again,

Craig Ward, Chair
Aurora Chamber of Commerce



Aurora Chamber Spotlight on... Ambassador Barbara Rowe



Barbara Rowe

Barbara Rowe is spreading the word about two high-quality year-round family vacation and conference centers located in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The Estes Park Center accommodates 3,500 people, providing a traditional camp atmosphere in the Estes Park area. The center is also home to Long's Peak Lodge, which is the first building in the Estes Park Valley to receive a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council in February, 2010 for implementing sustainable green strategies into its design and construction. The second center located near Winter Park is the Snow Mountain Ranch. The ranch covers more than 5,000 acres and provides facilities and programs to bring families together.

The goal of the YMCA of the Rockies is to deepen relationships and nourish the bodies, minds and souls of all its visitors in these two pristine mountain locations.

Rowe also helps to spread the word about the Aurora Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador. Her career brought her to Aurora to work in hospitality, she moved to Winter Park to work for the YMCA of the Rockies, and then moved back to Aurora to spread the word about the YMCA, and has worked closely with the Aurora Chamber ever since.

Raised and educated in Omaha, Nebraska, she loves College football and will always be a Husker fan. She has two daughters, one son and three grandchildren. And given her job, it's no wonder that she loves to play golf, hike and bike in the Rocky Mountains.

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 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.

The **IMPACT** is published 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.

Board of Directors

Chair of the Board
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Chair Elect
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouses

Secretary
Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Community
Federal Credit Union

Treasurer
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora

Immediate Past Chair
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

Past Chair Once Removed
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Vice Chair-Business Development
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

Vice Chair-Community Services
Dave Gruber | Merlin International

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

Vice Chair-Member Services
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

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*

Harrison Cochran | *Aurora Sentinel*

Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*

Tammy Fernandez | *University of Phoenix*

Carol Gregory | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

David Gruber | *Merlin International*

Ted Hair | *Red Lion Hotel*

Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*

Bob Jamieson | *Mutual of Omaha*

Michael Martin | *Qwest Communications*

Dave Maxwell | *1st Bank of Aurora*

John McCloy | *Westerra Credit Union*

Todd Miller | *City of Centennial*

Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*

Mark Moses | *Outback Restaurants*

Alfonso Nunez | *La Cueva Restaurant*

David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*

Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*

Dan Sandos | *401(K) Advisors*

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

Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC*

Dwight Taylor | *Edwards & Taylor LLC*

The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*

Jeff Thompson | *University of Colorado Hospital*

Craig Ward | *Padgett Business Services*

Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*

Michael Wukitsch | *The Children's Hospital*

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Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board

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Secretary

Janice Cooper

Administration Director

Stephanie McDonnell

Vice President

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Member News

Merrick Names Andrzejczak Vice President of Engineering



John Andrzejczak

John Andrzejczak, P.E., has been named vice president of Engineering for **Merrick & Company**. Andrzejczak has been with the firm for 14 years and has been serving in the capacity of mechanical equipment discipline lead and senior project engineer.

In his new role, he will be responsible for providing vision and direction for Merrick's engineering services and managing professional engineering registration and regulatory requirements. Andrzejczak has more than 25 years of experience in engineering in custom research and process equipment for the chemical, petrochemical, nuclear, and pharmaceutical industries.

Perlmutter, Coffman Hail Raytheon GPS Project As Job Creator

U.S. Reps. Ed Perlmutter and Mike Coffman highlighted the new U.S. Air Force GPS contract which has been awarded to Aurora-based **Raytheon**, as an example of the kind of private sector jobs needed in order to rebuild the economy. The contract for the Next Generation CPS Control Segment will create more than 300 new jobs in Colorado, and will support operations at the growing **Buckley Air Force Base** in Aurora and Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

E-470 Executive passes

Ed DeLozier, executive director of the **E-470 Public Highway Authority** since 1999, passed away unexpectedly on April 21. He was 58. DeLozier, a long-serving member of The Chamber Transportation Committee suffered a stroke after attending an industry conference in Austin, TX.

Chamber board past chair Jo Snell who worked closely with DeLozier called him "one of the greatest leaders I've ever had the privilege of working with."

Transportation Committee Chair Chris Fasching with **Fellsburg Holt & Ullevig** and past Transportation chair Dave Frazier with **Merrick** called DeLozier "a leader on local transportation issues" expressing sadness at his passing.

Ed Tauer, E-470's Board Chair and Mayor of Aurora, said, "Everyone in the E-470 family is greatly saddened by Ed's death. Ed was a unique soul. We will miss his warm, personal leadership style and sense of humor."

John McCluskey, the Deputy Director, will manage the authority until their board names a replacement.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! extends reimbursement program

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! HIRE Colorado wage reimbursement program for Colorado businesses has been extended through September 30 according to Dan Ryley, business development representative.



Ryley said the program is an opportunity to receive up to \$6,000 in cash reimbursements for each eligible new hire. It offers businesses an innovative resource for recruiting new employees which gives them on-the-job experience and reduces their demand for public assistance when unemployment benefits run out.

He stated there were a number of additional updates that make the program even more accessible to local companies including:

- The reimbursement is now available for all current open positions within your company, not just new job creation.
- The Arapahoe/Douglas County residency restrictions for applicants have been relinquished. This means any Colorado resident can qualify your company for the reimbursements if they meet the two other eligibility requirements:
 - Candidates must have a child under age 18
 - Candidates must have a household income under \$75,000/year

- Funding has been extended through September 30th, which means there is plenty of time to place individuals with your company that will qualify you for additional reimbursements.
- Reimbursement is 100% of the hourly wages, up to \$6,000 per new hire, and up to 5 placements within your company.

To apply for a subsidy, or for more information about the workforce center's free services for businesses, contact Dawn Gardner, Business Development Supervisor at 303-636-1275 or Ryley at 303-636-1405, or visit www.adworks.org.

VA Hospital fully funded

U.S. Representatives Ed Perlmutter and Mike Coffman joined a bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives on April 21 to authorize full funding of \$800 million for the new VA Medical Center being built at the Anschutz medical campus in Aurora. Groundbreaking for the 200 bed hospital is expected to take place in August, with opening expected in 2014 and full operational capability by 2017.

Response to Immigration Panel on May 4

The Aurora Bar Association is presenting a special panel called "Living with New Neighbors: Aurora's Response to Immigration" on May 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Aurora Municipal Building. Chamber board member Dwight Taylor with **Edwards & Taylor LLC**, said the panel would shed light on the service available to all resident, new and old and how those services have adapted.

Panelist include Chuck Hahn, **Aurora Business Development**; Shelly Wood, **Community College of Aurora**; Emily Parkey, Rights for All People; Chief Dan Oates, **Aurora Police Department**; and Dr. Barbara Cooper, **Aurora Public Schools**. Call 303-326-8690 for more information or to register to attend. The presentation is free and open to the public.

AFRL set for May 14



The largest event of its kind in the Metro area to honor the military kicks off on May 14. The annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon is expected to host more than 500 community, business, professional and military leaders at the **Crowne Plaza DIA Events Center** beginning at 11 a.m.

Sponsored by **Lockheed Martin**, the event will honor the top eleven junior enlisted military people serving in the Metro area as well as pay tribute to all those who serve, be they on active duty, in the reserve or in the National Guard. A special honor, the Bob Cardenas Award, will also be given to a civilian in the community who has made extraordinary contributions to the Armed Services.

Several leading businesses will also be supporting the event with their sponsorships including media sponsor **Rural Metro Ambulance** and reception sponsor **TriWest**.

Guest speaker for the event will be former fighter

pilot and Vietnam War POW, Lt. Col. Barry Bridger who appears courtesy of **First Command**. Popular local personality Rick Crandall from KEZW radio will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Event chair Suzanne Pitrusu with **Wells Fargo** says support for the event has been tremendous. "We are delighted that so many companies, organizations and people have stepped up to support our military. That really sends them a strong message that this community understands their sacrifices and stands behind them and their families."

Cost to attend the event which includes a formal presentation of

service colors is \$35 per person. A few tables remain as well. Table sponsors get six seats and make the four remaining seats available for military people serving in the area. More information is available by going to The Chamber web site, www.aurorachamber.org, or by calling George or Naomi at 303-344-1500.

Sponsored by:



55th annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

INTERNATIONAL AURORA



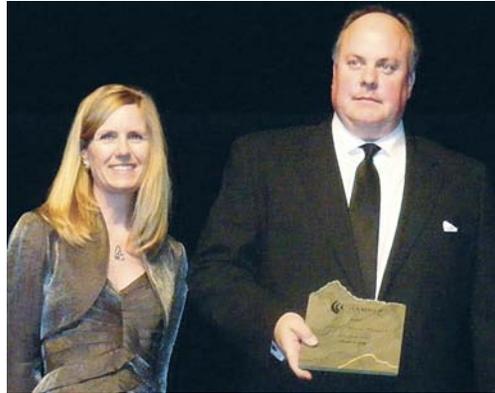
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- Judy Booth, vice president of business relations, **Fitzsimons Credit Union**
 - Harrison Cochran, president and publisher, **Aurora Sentinel**
 - BG Trulan Eyre, commander, **140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard**
 - Tammy Fernandez, director of Campus Community Investment, **University of Phoenix**
 - Carol Gregory, vice president for Patient Care & Chief Nursing Officer, **The Medical Center of Aurora**
 - Dave Gruber, vice president for Department of Defense Programs, **Merlin International**
 - Ted Hair, general manager, **Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast**
 - Bob Jamieson, **Mutual of Omaha**
 - Todd Landgrave, manager of Business Management, **Northrop Grumman**
 - Michael Martin, director of Program/Project Management, **Qwest Communications Inc.**
 - David Maxwell, executive vice president, **FirstBank of Aurora**
 - John McCloy, **Westerra Credit Union**
 - Todd Miller, Mayor Pro-tem and City Council, Ward 4, **City of Centennial**
 - Wendy Mitchell, president, **Aurora Economic Development Council**
 - Alfonso Nuñez, **La Cueva Restaurant**
 - David Patterson, division general manager, **Rural/Metro Ambulance**
 - Suzanne Pitrusu, business relationship manager, **Wells Fargo Bank**
 - Jo Snell, manager of Community/Public Relations, **E-470 Public Highway Authority**
 - Jim Suss, **Suss Buick GMC**
 - Ed Tauer, Mayor, **City of Aurora**
 - Dwight Taylor, **Edwards & Taylor LLC**
 - Jeff Thompson, director of Government and Corporate Relations, **University of Colorado Hospital**
 - Craig Ward, **Padgett Business Services**
 - Frank Weddig, Commissioner, **Arapahoe County**
 - Michael Wukitsch, vice president Human Resources, **The Children's Hospital**
- Ward also thanked those members of the board who had completed their term:
- Bob Barké, principal, **BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.**
 - Erin Lilly, medical office administrator, **Kaiser Permanente**
 - Alan Peppers, **Westerra Credit Union**
 - Dan Sandos, **401(k) Advisors**
 - Ken Smith, vice president Sales/Business Markets, **Qwest Communications**

Moses, just in from a trip to Washington, D.C., where he had met with the Colorado delegation, recognized that he had many challenges but expressed confidence in the Chamber Board, the Executive Board and the Chamber staff.



Bob Waples and Michael Mangino



Cindy Kreutz and Matt Cook



Harrison Cochran and Dwight Taylor



Tom Tobiasson and Tim Huffman



Mudra Dance Studio performers



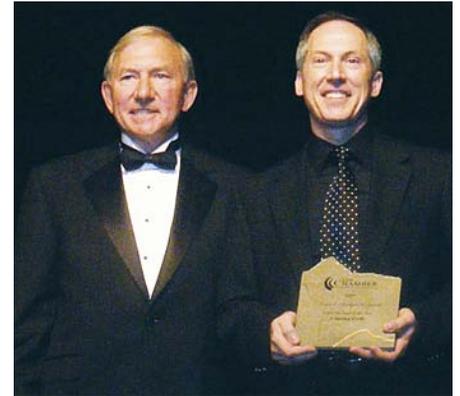
Mark Moses, Craig Ward and Kevin Hougen



John Barry and Dumitri Palea



Joyce Rocha Brown, Tim James, Shawn Cherry, Josh Oncay and Mike Garcia



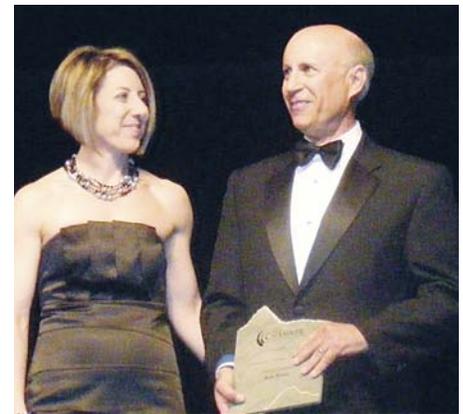
Frank Loner and Steve Sowin



Reed School of Irish Dance performers



Ed Tauer and Kate Tauer



Suzanne Pitrusu and Ron Miller



Scott Mueller, Mary Beth Sharp, Brian Molitoris, and Craig Ward



Christina Yeh Dance Studio performer

25th Anniversary of Leadership Aurora



On Thursday, June 3, Leadership Aurora will celebrate its Silver Anniversary with a reception honoring the 25th graduating class. The reception and formal program for the 2010 class will be at **The Timbers**, 4411 Peoria Street, at 5 p.m.

The event celebrates the accomplishments of the class and serves to continue the legacy of leadership in Aurora. The event is being sponsored by **FirstBank of Aurora, Kaiser Permanente, Aurora Mental Health Center, Cherry Creek Schools, Advantage Security, Inc., Aurora Public Schools, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital and Rural/Metro Ambulance**. Representative Michael Coffman, U.S. 6th Congressional District will present congratulatory remarks. Congressman Coffman is a graduate of the first Leadership Aurora class in 1985.

The 2010 class has dedicated themselves to partnering with **Aurora Mental Health Center** to renovate, design and completely furnish a transitional Veterans Home for homeless male veterans. This project shows a tremendous effort on behalf of the class and will culminate in a grand opening celebration of the home on May 4.

This year's class has also shown an overwhelming sense of compassion by taking on other community projects including packaging 60,000 meals for the Kids Against Hunger program; renovating the Boys Hope Girls Hope home; holding a bowl-a-thon to raise funds for an after school program for young African American boys; and working alongside the Leadership Aurora board to distribute holiday baskets and gift cards to more than 500 Aurora families during the holidays.



Please help us celebrate Leadership Aurora's Silver Anniversary by sponsoring the event:

\$1,000 Legacy Sponsor - Includes a table of 10 at the evening presentation; Display your company banner; Company Logo on the luncheon program and sponsor board; Recognition from the podium

\$500 Celebration Sponsor - Includes a table of 10 at the evening presentation; Company Logo on the luncheon program and sponsor board; Recognition from the podium

Individual tickets are \$25 and reservations are necessary. Please join us at **The Timbers**, on Thursday, June 3 for the Graduation Reception and Celebration. Please call Kimberly for reservations or more information at 303-344-1500 or e-mail Kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org.

Renewals

460th Space Wing
A Helping Hand
Allstate Insurance
Aurora City Manager's Office
Balancing Books, Inc.
Beck and Cassinis, P.C.
Best Western Gateway Inn & Suites
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Broadview Animal Clinic
Centennial Airport/A.C. Public Airport Auth.
Cherry Creek Jaycees
Colorado High School Activities Association
Country Inn & Suites By Carlson
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton
Dozens Restaurant
Eagle Legacy Credit Union
Education Foundation, Inc. Colorado National Guard
Edwards & Taylor LLC
Expert Nursing and Companion Services
Extra Space Storage
Firearm Accuracy Safety Training, Inc.
First Command Financial Planning
Great Western Printing, Inc.
Harvard Square Retirement Community
House of Flowers
La Cueva Restaurant
Legends of Aurora
Leisure Tech Industries
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
Loading Dock Restaurant
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.
Mile High Harley-Davidson
Navy Federal Credit Union
Office Depot
Outback Steakhouse
Profinish Painting & Design
ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning
Sheraton DTC Hotel
Stapleton Storage, LLC
United Hebrew Cemetery Association

NEW MEMBERS

Body Beautiful Collision Repair
DIAPARK.com
Ecotech Institute
Hyatt Summerfield Suites Denver Airport
Lewis & Fowler
Lotus School for Excellence
Peak Health Chiropractic
Rocky Mountain Glass Industries
RTL Networks, Inc.
Strategic Capital Partners
Steve Hogan



Please join us on Thursday, June 17, 2010 for the premiere golf event of the summer! There will be fun, excitement and great prizes too. The **12th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament** will be held at the beautiful and challenging **Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club**, E-470 & Gartrell Road.

Schedule of Events

7 a.m. Registration
8 a.m. Shotgun Start, Four Person Scramble
2 p.m. Lunch & Awards Ceremony

Individual golfer fee is \$150 and includes green fees, range balls, cart, awards lunch, and player gift. Sponsorships are still available and door prizes are still needed. You may register online by going to www.aurorachamber.org or email kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org

