

Serving the east-metro
area including:
Aurora
Bennett
Centennial
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THE CHAMBER Impact JAN/FEB 2013 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

Young Professionals

January 4 • 12 pm
Chamber office

Legislators' Breakfast

January 7 • 7:30-9 am
Community College of Aurora,
CentreTech Campus
Rotunda Room
1600 E. CentreTech Pkwy.

Tips and Leads 2

January 8 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Business for the Arts Committee

January 8 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

(moved to 2nd and
4th Tuesday for Jan. only)
January 8 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Transportation Committee

January 9 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Member Orientation

January 9 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

How to do Business with Arapahoe County

January 9 • 11:30 am-1 pm
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Board Meeting

January 9 • 3:30 pm
Outback Steakhouse
2066 S. Abilene St.

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Chamber Affiliates and Partners add value to membership

The Chamber has a number of affiliate and partner organizations that offer a variety of benefits and services to Chamber members. Services range from member discounts to job search help, and from online marketing to the Chamber workers' compensation program. Current organizations include:

Anchor Network Solutions - Providing discounted professional IT services to Chamber members, including set up, monthly services, and network audits.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center - Providing a variety of no-cost services to job seekers and businesses, including resources and workshops for self-directed job searches, one-on-one employment counseling, training assistance, and free workforce development services for businesses in the Metro area.

Aurora Business Development Center - Providing small business services and training for existing and start-up businesses in the City of Aurora, including one-on-one business advising, customized training and advising, and low-cost business seminars.

Aurora Economic Development Council (AEDC) - A partnership between business and government with the mission of enhancing the economic strength of the city.

Buckley Air Force Base - Ready forces providing unmatched space-based warning and awareness - protecting the homeland and global warfighters. The Chamber provides many programs to help retain our military neighbors as citizens of our community during and beyond their assignments here. The Chamber Foundation hosts a Wounded Warrior and Deployed Spouse Program.

City of Centennial - Aurora's partner/neighbor to the south.

Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs - By serving our military and veterans with information and services, we contribute to safeguarding the nation and the continued and growing presence of military installations and commands, and defense and national security enterprises. These efforts insulate our economy while providing a home for our national defense heroes, something in which we take great pride.

Constant Contact - Chamber members receive up to a 25 percent discount on monthly services for an effective, affordable, and easy to use way to reach customers with online marketing.

Greater Metro Denver Healthcare Partnership - A collaborative effort to identify and fill needed healthcare job opportunities in the local community (housed at The Chamber).

HealthTrans - A free pharmacy discount program.

Hertz Rent A Car - Special discounts and offers for Chamber members on rental car rates.

Office Depot - Chamber members receive up to 60 percent off commonly purchased items, 5 percent off most other items, up to 70 percent off on copy and print needs, and free delivery on online orders of \$50 or more placed by 5 pm.

Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) - Helping businesses that are seeking to compete successfully in federal, state, and local government contracting (housed at The Chamber). This year, PTAC has helped more than 1,200 clients statewide, and is responsible for close to \$600 million in contracts given to Colorado businesses.

Visit Aurora - Highlighting Aurora as a convention, sports, and visitor destination, and providing information about the myriad opportunities to enjoy Colorado's 300 days of sunshine each year. From the snow-capped mountains to the west, to the bike trails, family attractions, and cultural venues of the city, Aurora is a prime vacation destination.

Workers' Compensation Program through Pinnacle Assurance - Offering a 4 percent discount on premium for Chamber members - as well as potential return dividends for operating a safe working environment. In addition, training is provided to help reduce workers' compensation losses - therefore increasing the possibility and amount of potential dividends of up to 20 percent. ■

Chance Horiuchi joined The Chamber staff as the Director of Business Development in December of 2012. She will focus on membership and business development, and will help with the establishment of the Young Professionals, and with growth of Tips and Leads and the Ambassador program.

Chance comes to The Chamber with a diversified background in sales, nonprofit, and the medical field. For seven years she owned and operated a jewelry



boutique in Hawaii, where she's originally from. While attending school in Greeley, Colo., she worked and volunteered at assisted living retirement communities, hospitals, and for the Weld County Public Health department. Prior to joining The Chamber, Chance was the

Program Director for a nonprofit in Greeley and a diamond sales jewelry consultant. Her background of promoting successful sales and nonprofit work gives Chance a wealth of experience working with many cultures and backgrounds.

Chance received a Bachelor of Arts in Medical Anthropology, with a minor in Biomedical Sciences, from the University of Northern Colorado. Her love for travel gave her the opportunity to have studied abroad in Japan and Europe. ■



facebook



Kevin Hougén
President & CEO

President's Letter

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

We hope this finds all of our members in good health and good spirits entering into the New Year. The Board of Directors and our hard working staff want to thank you for all the help and support we received this past year. We often hear that our economy is improving and it slowly is, but we still see the stress of a slow economy on our local companies.

January is a good time of year to reflect on what has gone before and try to peer into the future to set plans for the year ahead. This last year has, in many respects has been a mixed bag, a time of triumph and tragedy. And as part of the mainstream business community we've been touched by it all. In the midst of a slow economic recovery, we suffered some terrible tragedies: wild fires destroyed hundreds of homes in Colorado; Hurricane Sandy pounded our neighbors on the east coast; and right here in our community, we suffered through one of the worst tragedies we have ever experienced--the shootings on 7/20 at our local movie theater.

Despite these horrible tragedies, we have seen firsthand that our local communities across the state have been able to come together to help each other, and we could not be prouder of our neighbors and fellow Coloradans with their generosity!

On a brighter note, last month the Aurora Business Advisory Board presented the Aurora Chamber of Commerce the 2012 Business Recognition Award. The Chamber along with **four other Chamber members** received this prestigious award for our contributions to the city's economic vitality. Those joining us in the winner's circle were:

- Ecotech Institute
- FastSigns on Abilene St.
- Havana Business Improvement District
- Wal-mart on Exposition Ave.

Congratulations to these amazing winners and their work to make this the best business climate in the State of Colorado.

Although the weather is turning colder, Signs are already positive for a warming

economy. The City of Aurora, the City of Centennial, Adams County and Arapahoe County have announced their tax revenues are projected to be up, and the Chamber membership, flat for several months, has also begun to rise.

Do we still have challenges? As my friends in North Dakota would say, "yeah, you betcha we do." But we feel we have the Board, staff and membership to keep this one of the most successful Chamber in the State. Please stay active and involved, recommend us to your friends and the other people you do business with and we'll do our part providing the access, advocacy and influence that will help our entire business community to be successful.

And again from the staff and our Board, our very best wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year! ■

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health

CHAIR ELECT
Open

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
David Gruber | Cybertap, LLC

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouse

SECRETARY
David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

TREASURER
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES
Open

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES
Tom Henley | Xcel Energy

DIRECTORS

Jason Altshuler | Westerra Credit Union
Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions
Randy Berner | Adolfsen & Peterson Construction
Larry Borland | CenturyLink
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Solutions
Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran Affairs
Bob Jamieson | Mutual of Omaha
Todd Landgrave | Northrop Grumman
Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Suzanne Pitrusu | Colorado Business Bank
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Credit Union
Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthOne
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Highway Authority
Matt Webber | Kaiser Permanente
Michael Wukitsch | Children's Hospital Colorado

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Brig. Gen. Trulan Eyre | 140th Wing COANG
Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development
The Honorable Steve Hogan | Mayor, City of Aurora
Bill Holen | Arapahoe County Commissioner
Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora
Ron Weidmann | City of Centennial Mayor Pro-Tem

STAFF

Kevin Hougén | President and CEO
Naomi Colwell | Sales & Marketing
Kimberly Curtis | Leadership Director
Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director
George Peck | Senior Vice President
Paul Rosenberg | VP, Membership Development
Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director
Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services
Chance Horiuchi | Business Development

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
Judy Emery | Healthcare Partnership Project Manager
.....
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc./Newsletter Design

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!

CenturyLink exceeds and recommits to volunteer hours

Fulfilling a promise made in August 2011, **CenturyLink, Inc.**, employees and retirees volunteered more than 130,000 hours to Colorado communities by August 2012. **CenturyLink** recently announced it will commit another 100,000 hours to Colorado nonprofits in 2013.

"In August 2011, we set out to make a significant, positive impact in Colorado communities through our pledge, and I'm proud to announce that we far exceeded that goal," said Scott Russell, vice president and general manager for **CenturyLink** in Denver and Northern Colorado. "And, we are pleased to announce that our Colorado employees and retirees promise another 100,000 hours of service to the community in 2013."

According to the Independent Sector, a national leadership network for nonprofits, the 130,000 hours donated by **CenturyLink** employees and retirees has an estimated value of \$2.83 million to the community.

Comitis receives an Eagle Award

The **Comitis Crisis Center** is the proud recipient of one of four 2012 Eagle Awards. Established in 1990, the Eagle Award represents one of the highest achievements within the Colorado housing community, celebrating extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding leadership in housing and support services. The award honors the individuals, agencies, programs, and developments that soar to new heights in their work to ensure safe, decent, affordable housing for all Coloradans. This year, there were more than 450 applicants.



The Eagle Award

Homeless Female Veteran Program

Comitis' work with the VA to get female homeless vets back on their feet is a perfect example of why the organization received the Eagle Award.

According to a 2012 Metro Denver Homeless Initiative survey of homeless within the metro area, roughly 10 percent of homeless veterans are female. Many of these women come back to difficult situations, which can be further complicated by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and substance abuse.

The **Comitis** program opens at least eight beds to homeless female veterans. The VA will help pay for the veterans to stay at the shelter for 8-12 months, with **Comitis** picking up the tab for the rest of the family, if necessary. "One of the core pillars of **Comitis** is to keep the family unified, and if they're not together, to reunify them," said James Gillespie, Community Impact

& Government Relations Liaison for **Comitis**.

The vision that **Comitis** has for the program is to help female veterans with medical concerns, to get them back in the job market, and to re-integrate them into the community.

Les Schwab supports Toys for Tots

Les Schwab Tire Centers joined Christmas Caravan for Kids (CCFK) and the U.S. Marines (CLB-453), to support Toys for Tots. CCFK hosted their 10th Annual Toys for Tots Drive December 1, 2012. **Les Schwab Tire Centers** store locations in the Denver-Metro area served as toy collection points during the month of November.

More than 500 vehicles participated in the caravan to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. The CCFK event has grown to be one of the largest single day toy donations for the USMC's Toys for Tots foundation.



U.S. Marines and volunteers unloading donated toys that were collected at Les Schwab Tire Centers. (Photo courtesy of Blue Onion)

QSE Technologies Joins 3t Systems

QSE Technologies has joined 3t Systems, a complete IT services company, based in Greenwood Village, Colorado. **QSE Technologies** specializes in the design, installation and ongoing support of robust, state of the art IT systems, including servers, data storage systems, networking, network security, remote access and HIPAA Security. The integrated organization provides a robust solution for small to mid-size organizations in the Rocky Mountain region and beyond, and has completed over 200 healthcare projects.

Front Range Airport Receives Full Funding for Spaceport License

Front Range Airport is ready to launch its bid for spaceport licensing with full funding commitments from strategic partners.

"The Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics approved a grant request for \$275,000, which is the last commitment needed to match a \$200,000 grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation," said Dennis Heap, executive director for **Front Range Airport**.

Aeronautics funding comes on the heels of commitments from Denver International Airport (DIA) for \$50,000, the **City of Aurora** for \$25,000, I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership for \$5,000, the **Town of Bennett** for

\$5,000 and **Adams County** for \$300,000. "The commitments are more than just money," said Heap. "They are an expression of partnership for the concept of Spaceport Colorado."

Studies show that tomorrow's leaders in commercial space transportation will be facilities that are part of a world-wide network of suborbital flight transportation. Front Range Airport's unique position as a spaceport location is due to its rural location and excess capacity, while being convenient to DIA and easily accessible by the greater Denver/Aurora metro area.

Merrick Adds to Infrastructure Team

John Connelly, PE, has joined the civil infrastructure team at **Merrick & Company** as a project engineer. "John will help us continue our growth in the infrastructure market sector," said Michael Martin, PE, CFM, LEED AP, project manager with **Merrick**. Connelly will contribute to Merrick's public works and land development expertise throughout the Western United States.



John Connelly, PE

Freezin' For a Reason!

Mark your calendar for February 23, 2013 at the Aurora Reservoir, for the **Special Olympics Colorado's Polar Plunge**. The experience has become a winter-time tradition for hundreds of warm hearted and generous plungers - and it benefits Colorado's children and adults with intellectual disabilities, as they enjoy the life-changing benefits of participating with **Special Olympics Colorado**. Register online at www.SpecialOlympicsCO.org.

Rangeview's Westenberg Named 2013 Colorado Teacher of the Year

State Education Commissioner Robert Hammond named **Aurora Public Schools** social studies teacher Amanda Westenberg as the 2013 Colorado Teacher of the Year. She was selected for the honor based on her expertise, the student achievement results she receives from her classroom instruction, and her ability to inspire students.



Amanda Westenberg

Westenberg says she made the decision to enter into the field of education hoping to create a community in which students could feel safe, cared for and cherished.

As Teacher of the Year, Westenberg will get many professional development opportunities through the National Teacher of the Year program, will attend a ceremony at the White House, and will go to space camp for a week.

[continued on page 4]

Medal of Merit Awarded

Stephen Gourley and Christopher Hassett were recently awarded the Medal of Merit by the Air Force Association at their national convention. Gourley and Hassett, both members of the Defense Council Executive Committee, earned the award for the work they have done to revitalize the Rocky Mountain Region of the Air Force Association.

Five honored with Business Recognition Awards

In December, **The Aurora Chamber of Commerce** and four other local businesses — all members of **The Chamber** — were honored by the City of Aurora's Business Advisory Board. **The Chamber** received the *Special Award for Aurora Civic Excellence*, and **Ecotech Institute**, **The Havana Business Improvement District**, **FASTSIGNS of Aurora**, and the **Walmart** at 140000 E. Exposition, received Business Recognition Awards.

In the video about **The Chamber** presented at the awards ceremony on Dec. 6, Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, **Aurora Public Schools** Superintendent John Barry, **Buckley AFB Base**

Commander Col. Dan Dant, Colorado State House Rep. **Su Ryden**, **ALMC Mortgage at Nova Home Loans** owner Cheryl Braunschweiger, and **Aurora Family YMCA** executive director Kimberly Armitage, all talk about how **The Chamber** works in the community — as part of

the community — to improve it at all levels.

Watch the video by Aurora Channel 8's Senior Producer Mark Isenburg at <https://www.auroragov.org/CityHall/AuroraChannel8/>. ■



The Aurora Chamber staff with Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and City Manager Skip Noe at the 2012 Business Advisory Board Business Recognition Event. From left to right back row: George Peck, Kevin Hougén, Steve Hogan, Skip Noe, Naomi Colwell, Kimberly Curtis, and Paul Rosenberg. Front row: Mary Beth Sharp, Chance Horiuchi, Linda Lillyblad, and Mitzi Schindler.



State Rep. Su Ryden



Chamber Vice President
George Peck

Ryden and Peck honored by Buckley AFB

This year's Community Heroes of Buckley Awards Luncheon honors State Rep. Su Ryden and Chamber Vice President George Peck. The award was established to recognize community leaders for their contributions to the Buckley missions, and who by their actions have made a positive effect supporting the men, women and families of Team Buckley. In 2011, Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougén and Western Development Group's Director Christian Anschutz were honored. ■

Save the Date

Women in Business Unsung Heroes Luncheon

February 22 - Red Lion Hotel Denver SE, 3200 S. Parker Rd.

Aurora Day at the Capitol

March 8

Awards Banquet

April 18, 2013

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon (AFRL)

June 14 - Renaissance Hotel Denver Stapleton
3801 Quebec St.

Coming, Fall 2013:

The Chamber Healthcare Summit
Information to come!

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RibbonCuttings



To a smooth-road financial future! — **Parsonex** CEO Jonathan Miller cuts the ribbon for the **Parsonex** office at 6155 S Main St. in Aurora. The **Parsonex Financial Roadmap** provides a simple approach to developing a financial strategy for retirement. The program shows clients information about their current financial position, helps clearly identify goals, and lets the advisor suggest personalized strategies to achieve those goals. **Parsonex** advisors work with clients to develop a financial solution; with the belief that behavior is the most important key to long-term financial success. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



Something unexpected® - That's what you'll find at the recently opened at 6472 S. Parker Rd. in the Arapahoe Crossing Shopping Center. From clothing and shoes to home decorations and seasonal items, **Gordmans** is committed to their mission "of delighting our guests with big savings, big selection, and fun, friendly associates." **Gordmans** now has seven locations in Colorado, with the latest brands, fashions and styles in apparel and home décor, savings of up to 60 percent off department and specialty store prices, and outstanding guest service.



During the ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 5, CEO Jeff Gordman presented a check for \$2,500 for the **Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation** to **APS** Superintendent John Barry. The generous gift is made possible by **Gordmans** involvement in Partners in Education, a program through which businesses make additional educational resources available to local public school systems.

Rolling right along! — The **Les Schwab Tire Center** at 3434 N. Tower Road in Aurora is open and ready for business, after a rousing ribbon-cutting on Saturday, Oct. 20. Along with entertainment, giveaways, and great savings, the celebration included members of the Aurora Central football team competing in relay races using giant tires to raise money for their athletic program. The high school also fundraised by selling tickets to the popular Stick It To Me food truck that was on-site during the celebration. The event raised nearly \$700 for the team.

Les Schwab Tire Centers offer Free Peace of Mind Protection; Free Lifetime Tire and Mileage Care; Trusted World-Class Service; and Free tire disposal, flat repairs, tire rotations, air checks, tire re-balancing, road hazard protection, and pre-trip safety checks.

The **Les Schwab Tire Center** mantra is that you'll get only the work you need done quickly and efficiently from highly trained specialists who do the job right the first time — so you can get back on the road as fast as possible.



Perfection obtained! — New Chamber member, **P.S. It's Perfect's** owner Debra Hall cuts the ribbon for her store at 6100 Main St. at the Southlands Mall. **P.S. It's Perfect!** is a gift and home interiors store designed to help customers express their personal style. This fun and eclectic store features local artists and entrepreneurs that donate a portion of their proceeds to local and national charities. **P.S. It's Perfect!** makes it possible for you to have fun shopping — as well as feel good about contributing to a good cause.



Keeping good company and taking great photos — It was a grand celebration on Nov. 20, when **Southlands Ventures, Inc.**, had a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Studio at Southlands. **Southlands Ventures** owner, Grider Lee, was in very good company at the event, including Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, a couple of Santa Clauses, and some very good elves! **Southlands Ventures** provides scalable, on-location event photography and immediate on-site printing of commercial-lab quality photos in 30 seconds or less — anywhere along the Colorado Front Range. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



Upcoming Events (con't.)

Healthcare Committee

January 10 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 3

January 14 • 11:45 pm
Chamber office

Chamber Board

Executive Committee
January 16 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Business Before Hours

January 16 • 7:30 am
Goodwill Industries of Denver
14980 E. Alameda Dr.

State of the Base

January 16 • 11:30 am-1 pm
DoubleTree by
Hilton Denver-Aurora
13696 E. Iliff Place

Leadership Aurora Education Session

January 17 • 7:30 am-5 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 21
Chamber office closed

Tips and Leads 2

January 22 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

(moved to 2nd and
4th Tuesday for Jan. only)
January 22 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Women in Business

January 22 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

Chamber Board of Directors

January 23 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee

January 24 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Business After Hours

January 24 • 5-7 pm
Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton
3333 E. Quebec St.

Tips and Leads 3

January 28 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

FEBRUARY

Young Professionals

February 1 • 12 pm
Chamber office

Business for the Arts

February 5 / 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

February 5 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Transportation Committee

February 6 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

February 7 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 3

February 11 • 11:45 pm
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

February 12 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

ChamberMaster Training

February 13 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Board Meeting

February 13 • 3:30 pm
Outback Steakhouse
2066 S. Abilene St.

How to do Business with Arapahoe County

February 13 • 11:30 am-1 pm
Chamber office

Healthcare Committee

February 14 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

February 19 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Healthcare Session

February 21 • 7:30 am-5 pm

Women in Business Unsung Heroes Luncheon

February 22 • 11 am-1 pm
Red Lion Hotel Denver SE
3200 S. Parker Rd. (Parker Rd. & I-225)

Tips and Leads 3

February 25 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

February 26 • 7:30 am

Chamber Board of Directors

February 27 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Business After Hours

February 28 • 5-7 pm
Community College of Aurora -
Lowry Campus
710 Alton Way

Inside Information



(Photos courtesy of USAF)

Col. Dan Dant, Commander of the 460th Space Wing and senior commander at **Buckley Air Force Base** in Aurora will present his annual State of the Base on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the **Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Aurora**. As senior leader of one of Colorado's major economic engines and one of this country's most important military assets, Colonel Dant's perspective is vital to the entire business, professional and political community. It is also traditionally the release date for the annual installation economic

impact statement. The yearly event is jointly sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Defense Council and the **Rotary Club of Aurora**. Cost for the lunch is \$25 per person. Sponsored tables with preferred locations and recognition in the program are available for \$300. Seating is limited so **The Chamber** recommends you get your reservation in right away. You can register by going to **The Chamber** website and clicking on the event calendar - or by calling **The Chamber** at 303-344-1500. ■

Legislators' Breakfast

January 7 / 7:30-9 am
Community College of Aurora,
CentreTech Campus
Rotunda Room
1600 E. CentreTech Pkwy.

The First Legislators' Breakfast of 2013 will feature state legislators from the Eastern Metro area sharing their vision for the session ahead. Hosted by CCA President Alton Scales and moderated by Aurora Chamber Board Chair Jeff Thompson. ■

Leadership Aurora Class members all around town during class sessions, projects and parties



One of the stops during the Art in Public Places tour provides a great photo opportunity in front of the Aurora History Museum with "Twin Totems" by artist Mary Williams. Left to right are Taylor Roberts, Teri Karjala, Linda Lillyblad, Melissa Banks, and Nanette Coats.



During the Economic and Infrastructure session in November, Aurora City Manager Skip Noe gives the class a presentation about the City of Aurora in the Council Chambers at the Aurora Municipal Center.



This year's community day included a bit of swinging for class members (left to right) Troy Grimes, Alton Scales, Stanley Turner, and Anne Polyzou.



A whopping 5,821 diapers were collected for Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) during the Leadership Class' first mini-class project. Left to right are Gigi deGala, John Reid with MCPN, Stanley Turner (kneeling), Shaun Drost, Christian Lertch, Hunter Hackbarth, Jacquie Healy, Nanette Coats, and Jason Heustis.

SAVE THE DATE!



June 20, 2013

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf and Country Club



Members of the Leadership Class enjoy the October Business After Hours Mardi Gras party at the Hilton Garden Inn DIA. Left to right are Gary Wheat, Gigi de Gala, Linda Lillyblad, Marissa Banks, and general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn Gian Gandolfo - the host of the festive event!

It's a new year – update your profile

LinkedIn is one of the few social media sites every professional should be using. Unlike many sites, it doesn't take hours of your time to maintain a popular profile. However, if you're like me you might not have updated your profile for a while.

Your LinkedIn profile represents your professional image and an opportunity to connect with other professionals. You can further your career, build your business, generate leads, and create contacts. As 2013 starts up, take some time to look at your profile and see what everyone else sees. Is your information really representative of what you do? Have you learned a new skill, been promoted or even changed jobs? Is it filled with 2010 buzz words that should be banned?

Creating and maintaining an authoritative presence, starts with your profile. The more robust your profile, and the more you engage and interact, the more opportunities there will be. Here are a few tips I found on how to create a profile that will get you noticed:

1. Keep it professional. Save the cute baby photos, new puppy pictures, and Solo cup

shots for Facebook, Pinterest and/or Twitter. If you wouldn't put it on your resume or CV, then don't put it on LinkedIn.

2. Customize your URL. Left to its own devices LinkedIn will assign you an incomprehensible URL.
3. Personalize your Website. I bet you think you've already done this. But, if you select "Other" instead of "Website" when adding your personal URL, you can change the name of the link to be whatever you want, like "World's Best Bakery," or "Your Complete Office Products Center." Otherwise, the link just says "Website."
4. Update your profile photo. LinkedIn photos should be recent, what you look like today, not 10 years ago. They should reflect your professional persona.
5. Create a strong headline. This can be trickier than it sounds. It can be your current title, if you like. But something a little more creative will stand out better. Remember that when people search the 175 million LinkedIn users, they only see your name and headline to begin with. So think about what make you

irreplaceable or what problems you are able to solve.

6. Write an effective summary. Don't leave this one blank. Your summary tells people who you are, what you do or want to do, and why you're unique. It's not your title or job description. Think of it like an elevator speech, for which you have three minutes in an elevator to make a lasting impression on someone by describing who you are and what you do.
7. Request Recommendations. Select those you have worked with in the past, and ask them for recommendations. Having good recommendations will help you stand out and will help to build trust in your reputation.
8. Join related groups and start making connections!

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Adapted from Faison Office Buzz Newsletter December 2012, by Tricia Delahunty, Faison Office Products Marketing Coordinator. ■

MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
A-1 Discount Water
AAA Colorado
Abby Home Care, Inc.
AFLAC - Reeves
All American Windows & Siding
Alpine Carstar Auto Body
American Portfolios
American Sentinel University
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
Aurora Federal Credit Union
Aurora Fire Department
Aurora Police Association
Aurora Firefighters Protective Association
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club
Aurora Law Firm
Aurora Public Schools
Aurora Rotary Club
Autawash of Colorado - Havana
Bent Fork American Grill
Bhavikatti Architecture LLC
Blackstone Country Club
Bright Now Dental
Burger King/Ocedon
Canyons at Saddlerock Apartments
Central Colorado Area Health Education Center
CenturyLink
Chambers Wine & Liquor
Citywide Banks - Aurora East
Clif Sams
Colorado Continental Roofing & Solar, Inc.
Colorado Lending Source
Comcast
Component Specialties, Inc.
Concentra Medical Centers - Southeast/ II
Denver Transit Partners, LLC
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
DPRA, Inc.
Eagle Bend Metropolitan District #2

Edward Jones Investments - David Cooper
Employer Emissaries, Inc.
First Citizens Bank
FirstBank - Aurora, Havana
Fitzsimons Credit Union
Fraternal Order of Eagles - Aurora Aerie
Freund & Company
Golf Club at Heather Ridge
Guaranty Bank & Trust
Hampton Inn & Suites - DIA/Gateway Park
Harbor Plaza Mini Storage
Heather Gardens Association
High Country Coatings
House of Flowers, Florist, Boutique & Art
Infiniti of Denver
JCPenney
Junior Achievement of Rocky Mountain, Inc
La Cueva Restaurant
Landtech Contractors Inc.
Legends of Aurora Sports Grill
Lotus School For Excellence
M. Mullis Collectibles- Jerri Grable Mull
Maids Home Services, The
May Farms
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.
Morin Wood Finesse
Nancy Todd, State Senator
Nelnet
Northrop Grumman
Pickens Technical College
Polly Page
Precision Glassblowing of Colorado
Regional Transportation District (RTD)
Reliable Home Repair Inc.
Renaissance Denver Hotel
Residence Inn - Denver Airport
Rocky Mountain USO at DIA
Safeway, Inc.
Seko Worldwide

Southlands
Springhill Suites Denver Fitzsimons
State Farm Insurance - Mike Gibbs
Staybridge Suites - Denver Tech
T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service
TownePlace Suites - DIA at Gateway Park
Turner Construction Company
University of Colorado Health
Visit Aurora
Wings Over the Rockies Museum
Yellow Book USA

NewMembers

AAction Movers
Body Beautiful Collision Repair
Business Insurance Specialists
Civitan Club of Aurora
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.
Energy Outreach Colorado
Five Rings Financial
Flats at Fulton Court HOA
Glorious Loving Hands Skin Care and Waxing
Green Energy & Electric
Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham - DTC
Landmark Packaging, Inc.
Roof Brokers, Inc.
School of Rock
Special Olympics Colorado
Sport Clips
Steve Ruddick
Tandacon Solutions
US Health Advisors
Westchester North Condominium Association
Woodgate Terrace HOA

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