



Upcoming Events

March

Lunch and Learn

ALMC Mortgage Seminar
March 9 | 11:30 a.m.
Chamber office

Business Before Hours

March 10 | 7:30 a.m.
Smoky Hill Library

Women Making a Difference Luncheon

March 12 | 11:30 a.m.
Red Lion Hotel SE

Member Orientation

March 17 | 12:00 noon
Chamber office

Internet Marketing/ Promotion Seminar

VMIDirect Colorado
March 24 | 3:30 p.m.
Chamber office

Business After Hours

March 25 | 5:00 p.m.
Springhill Suites by Marriott - Denver Airport



Join Us!

www.meetup.com/The-Aurora-Chamber-of-Commerce/

Chamber provides latest position document to legislators

The Aurora Chamber presented their latest advocacy material at the Aurora Day at the Capitol on Feb. 12. After being vetted by the Government Affairs and Education Committee, the new **2010 Legislator's Guide** was handed to legislators at the capitol. The four page pamphlet, available upon request to all Aurora Chamber members, includes comprehensive contact information on Eastern Metro legislators; a summary of The Chamber position on critical issues to its member businesses including transportation, healthcare, education, economic development, water and initiatives; and details on how the Public Issues Committee of The Chamber Board operates.

The Government Affairs Committee also began what Committee Chair Jim Suss of **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC**, called "due diligence" on several items that will appear on the ballot this fall. Of most concern was Proposition 101 which would force the state into even deeper budget cuts and cause what opponents say would be "devastating impacts on economic development and creation of jobs; education, especially higher education; health care; highway and road maintenance and dozens of other critical public services." The measure is similar to Amendment 21 proposed by TABOR author Douglas Bruce in 2000. That measure was opposed by The Chamber and soundly defeated by voters.

Also being discussed at future meetings are proposed Amendments 60 and 61.

Looking at the big picture – Wade Buchanan, an analyst with the Bell Policy Institute, shows those attending a luncheon following Aurora Day at the Capitol, where tax dollars in the State General Fund are allocated. Buchanan went on to talk about the potential impact of three ballot issues—Amendment 101 and Propositions 60-61 on the State's budget in the out years. More than 80



Aurora citizens attended the Day at the Capitol and the lunch organized by the City of Aurora and sponsored by the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** and the **Aurora Economic Development Council** on Feb. 12. (Photo courtesy of Harrison Cochran, Aurora Sentinel)

Amendment 60 would virtually eliminate local control of local budgets and would severely impact the ability of school districts to effectively maintain an infrastructure to respond to the needs of educating Colorado's children according to a study by the Bell Policy Institute. Their study also said the proposed Amendment 61 would "hamstring current and future efforts to address Colorado's crumbling infrastructure and halt the maintenance and construction of schools, roads, and dozens of other projects that are critical to Colorado infrastructure."

Annual Awards Banquet to be an "International Event!"

With spring around the corner, The Chamber is preparing for its biggest event of the year – the **Annual Awards Banquet set for April 16, 2010** at the Crown Plaza Hotel. This year's theme is "International Aurora," celebrating the international flavors and cultures of Aurora and the Eastern Metro area.

As always, the banquet also celebrates the best of the best in the communities that The Chamber serves, honoring those who make substantial contributions to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce or the Aurora community. Nominations are being accepted for all categories:

- **Business of the Year**
- **Business Person of the Year**
- **Chamber Leadership Award**
- **Woman of the Year**
- **Man of the Year**
- **Humanitarian Award**
- **Community Leadership**
- **Business for the Arts**
- **Small Business Person of the Year**

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with international entertainment and hors d' oeuvres and The Chamber's ever-



popular Silent Auction, with dinner and wine beginning at 7:30. If you would like to donate an item for the Silent Auction, contact Mary Beth Sharp at 303-344-1500. Deadline for donations is April 9, 2010.

To access an award nomination form, go to www.aurorachamber.org, and click on the "Nominations for Annual Awards" button on the left side of the home page, or call Naomi Colwell at 303-344-1500. **Deadline for nominations is March 19, 2010 at 5 p.m.**

Dress for the evening will be "International Formal!"

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

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Craig Ward
Chair

bylaws, first-term members may serve a second three-year term. We have asked the following board members to extend their service with us:

- Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union**
- Joe Barela, **Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center**
- Carol Gregory, **The Medical Center of Aurora**
- Alfonso Nuñez, **La Cueva Restaurant**

We also want to thank retiring board members Erin Lilly, **Kaiser Permanente**; Alan Peppers, **Westerra Credit Union**; Dan Sandos, **401(K) Advisors**; Ken Smith, **Qwest** and Mayor Randy Pye, **Centennial**. We have been fortunate to have their wisdom and passion for the Chamber mission, and their outstanding service to the business community. They will be missed.

The nominating committee has named the following replacements to fill the vacant board positions:

- Michael Martin, **Qwest**
- John McCoy, **Westerra Credit Union**
- Dwight Taylor, **Edwards & Taylor, LLC**



Bob Jamieson

Aurora Chamber Spotlight on... Ambassador Bob Jamieson

Bob Jamieson says that he's not very good at self promotion. But he is always "the life of the party" – and very good at being involved in the Chamber

Ambassadors group and in his community. His involvement in the Chamber has spanned 10 years, and he served as the Chair of the Ambassadors from 2004 to 2006. He has been the chair of the Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament for the last two years, and received a Small Business of the Year award from the Chamber in 2005. In addition, Bob serves as a board member for the Spirit of Aurora and for the YMCA. But that just scrapes the surface of this energetic, involved, and enthusiastic member of the Chamber Ambassadors.

In addition, the nominating committee has selected the following Chamber members to serve as the 2010-2011 executive leadership:

- Chair, Mark Moses, **Outback Steakhouse** (2010-2011)
- Secretary, Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union**
- Treasurer, David Maxwell, **FirstBank**
- Immediate Past Chair (2009-2010), Craig Ward, **Padgett Business Services**
- Immediate Past Chair Once Removed (2008-2009), Jo Snell, **E-470 Public Hwy. Authority**

Also accepting leadership roles on the executive committee are:

- Membership Services Chair: Tammy Fernandez, **University of Phoenix**
- Business Development Chair: Harrison Cochran, **Aurora Sentinel**
- Community Service Chair: Dave Gruber, **Avaya Government Systems**

I am proud to say that this group of dedicated, hard working board members will powerfully represent the diversified membership of the Chamber. I hope that you will join us when these dedicated individuals are formally inducted at the Chamber's **Annual Awards Banquet** on the evening of **April 16, 2010**. Please join me in welcoming and thanking both our new and renewing Board members for their willingness to spend their valuable time in the particularly challenging era to serve as your Chamber's Board of Directors for the next year 2010-2011.



As a representative of the **Mutual of Omaha**, Bob helps clients to protect their assets from both known and unexpected risks. He has been working with individual and business clients for more than 15 years, offering a full line of financial services to meet ever-changing needs. He considers himself to be a personal risk manager, and he says that "helping people get the most from their insurance dollar is a rewarding career." He has been an Agent and Registered Representative with **Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company** since 1989 and serves as an SEC Registered Representative for **Mutual of Omaha Investor Services**, as well.

When asked what he is most proud of though, Bob says without hesitation, "my daughter, Lexie!"

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!

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 | Nortel Government Solutions

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 | *Avaya*
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
Erin Lilly | *Kaiser Permanente*
Dave Maxwell | *1st Bank of Aurora*
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*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*
Dan Sandos | *401(K) Advisors*
Ken Smith | *Qwest*
Jo Snell | *E-470 Public Hwy. Authority*
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC*
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*

Executive Staff

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Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board
Naomi Colwell

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Secretary
Janice Cooper

Administration Director
Stephanie McDonnell

Vice President
George Peck

VP, Membership Development
Paul Rosenberg

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EDUCATION DAY

Community Exploration at Aurora History Museum

By Eric Levesque, Air Reserve Personnel Center

I had the pleasure of exploring the **Aurora History Museum** as one of my Community Explorations for Leadership Aurora. The **Aurora History Museum** is a community-based cultural center featuring changing history and decorative art exhibits with educational programs, tours, workshops and family events offered throughout the year. The museum features a permanent exhibit on the history of Aurora and two changing exhibit galleries.

I enjoyed learning about Aurora's history in the permanent gallery. Not being a native Coloradan, it was interesting to learn how the city has grown from

an area of four square miles in 1891 to today's ever-expanding 151 square miles. As a fairly new resident of Aurora, I also enjoyed learning about the names of people and places associated with Aurora's history, including Fletcher, Beck, Hoffman, and Mission Viejo.

Since I currently serve as an Air Force Reservist in one of the final remnants of Lowry AFB, I identified with the military history of Aurora, including Fitzsimons Army Hospital (named after the first American killed in WWI), **Buckley AFB**, and Lowry AFB.

I also identified with and enjoyed the U.S. President John Adams exhibit; as both he and I hail

from the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts and share an appreciation for reading and learning. A fascinating aspect of this exhibit was that Adams read and collected a wide assortment of books, and kept detailed notes on his thoughts and reactions – helping us to understand his passions, religious beliefs and guiding philosophies.

One of the requirements for each Leadership Aurora class member is to complete two Community Explorations prior to graduation. These activities encourage class members to explore new places, and to expand their knowledge of the Aurora community.



21st Century Learning and Teaching in Aurora

Leadership Aurora Education Day was a great adventure in exploring a few of the local schools. The day began with Rich Patterson, Director of the P-20 Campus, whose passion was felt throughout the day as we explored all the incredible technology that these schools are using, and learning about plans for the future. The P-20 Campus Development almost makes me wish I were a child again – almost!

We then traveled to Prairie Middle School in the **Cherry Creek School District**, where we were met by wonderful young people who greeted us with handshakes, smiles and introductions. I really like that this is part of the learning style, as you never get a second chance to make a first impression! We listened to the principal, Dr. Kandy Cassaday, who spoke about

implementing diverse programs and activities for all of the cultures represented at the school.

We finished the day at the Lowry Campus of the **Community College of Aurora**, where we visited the film school, and also learned about interactive media and biotechnology. I have to say learning about the smart board and playing with the clickers was cool; however, the biotechnology lab was my favorite part of the day. I learned how to isolate my own DNA. I have the proof: a little DNA sample, tucked safely in a tube.

The day was enlightening, and I have no doubt that we have new and amazing leaders emerging from our schools, who will be innovative, creative, critical thinkers moving our country forward.



Smart hat, Chad! 2010 Leadership Aurora class members are all smiles about the Smart Board educational tool that they were introduced to at Education Day. Front Row L-R, Amy Prince, Chad Argentar (with the smart hat), Ana-Christina Wadle, Birgit Baldwin. Back Row L-R Antoinette Dow, Amy McLaughry, Barbara Peck, Chelsea DeChaine

Smoky Hill Rotary helps out at Ronald McDonald House



Love this wagon! – Rotarian Bruce Smith talks with one of the many kids at the Ronald McDonald House about the merits of little red wagons. Smith and other members of the Smoky Hill Rotary were at the House to cook dinner for the residents recently and was attempting to get out of washing dishes. (Photo Courtesy Smoky Hill Rotary Club)

The premiere golf event of the summer will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010. This year, we return to the beautiful and challenging **Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club**, and prices the same as last year at \$150 individual golfer fees that include cart, green fees, lunch, and a player ditty bag.

Rural/Metro Ambulance and **Sam's Club** is helping to Co-Sponsor the event this year. Other sponsors to-date include **Adolfson & Peterson Construction, FirstBanks of Aurora, Metro Community Provider Network, Pinnacle Assurance, Qwest, IREA** and **University of Phoenix**.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. They range from \$200 Fairway sponsors to a \$2,500 Breakfast Sponsor that includes golfer fees, signage, promotion and website links.

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



*"Don't play too much golf.
Two rounds a day are plenty."
— Harry Vardon*

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 to register online for the tournament or e-mail kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org for more information.

Member News

A&P and Textura featured on CNN's Inside Business

Adolfson & Peterson Construction's CFO Mark Pederson and project manager Tara Blotske were featured in a recent CNN Inside Business story. The story is about Textura's payment software that is being used by some of the nation's top construction firms, including A&P, to streamline and automate the payment process and manage financial and legal risk. The clip can be viewed online at <http://www.texturalc.com/inside-business.htm>.

A&P is one of the top 50 construction companies in the U.S., providing construction management, design/build and general contracting services to public and private clients.

American Automation Building Solutions Names new leadership

American Automation Building Solutions, Inc. recently announced the addition of Philip C. Bonfanti as vice president and general manager. Bonfanti will be responsible for business development and operational efficiencies, providing world-class systems, processes, and services.



Pamela Smith, EdD

Pamela Smith, EdD, has also joined **American Automation Building Solutions** as vice president of Human Resources. Dr. Smith will be responsible for all aspects of human resources, including recruitment, training and development, compensation, benefits, safety and compliance.

American Automation Building Solutions, Inc. provides technology solutions to clients in various governmental and commercial sectors, including Aerospace and Defense.

Pinnacol Assurance to Host Bilingual Conference

Pinnacol Assurance is hosting Colorado's Bilingual Conference on Workplace Safety March 31-April 1. The two-day conference focuses on the State's front-line employees and supervisors in the construction industry and includes OHSA 10-hour construction safety and health (English/Spanish); focused advanced supervisor training (English only); and hands-on, interactive labs.

Cost per person is \$50, including conference fees, materials, and breakfast and lunch both days.

The conference is open to all of Colorado's construction workers - not just **Pinnacol** policyholders. Additionally, this conference is being offered at a discounted rate in an effort to make it affordable for everyone to attend. Call 303-361-4791 by March 19, 2010 to register.

Courses include:

- OHSA 10-Hour Construction Safety and Health (English/Spanish)
- Focused Advanced Supervisor Training (English Only)
- Hands-on, interactive labs

The cost of the conference is \$50 per person is \$50 which includes conference fees, materials and breakfast and lunch both days.

Contact Johana Mendoza, Hispanic Liaison Representative, at **Pinnacol Assurance**, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd. Denver, CO 80230, (303) 361-4773, johana.mendoza@pinnacol.com or Michelle D. Adams at 303-361-4786.

2010 Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon

Aurora Chamber Member **Kaiser Permanente** is sponsoring this year's **Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon** on Sunday, May 15, and the Kids Fun Run on May 15. Marathon day includes a Full Marathon, Half Marathon, and a 5-Member Marathon Relay.

The Marathon needs more than 2,000 people to help plan, manage, and staff this community event and is seeking volunteers to work at the Marathon Village in Denver's City Park, to greet guests at the Mayors' Appreciation Breakfast, to hand out water to the 7,000 race day participants, and to staff the start/finish lines. For more information, go to www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org.

Leversee named COO at Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council

Jan Leversee has been named Chief Operations Officer at **Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council (ACECC)**. Most recently, Leversee has been working as a trainer/educator in a number of **ACECC** programs, including Parents as Teachers, Touchpoints Team, and Nurturing Parenting Program. She served on the **ACECC**

Board of Directors from 2005-2006, during a critical time following **ACECC's** incorporation as a nonprofit.

ACECC is one of 31 early childhood councils in Colorado, providing an efficient, community based infrastructure to support early childhood care and education. More information is available online at www.acecc.org or by phone at 303-991-2220.

Merrick names Howell as Corporate Facility Security Officer

Merrick & Company has recently named Trey Howell, GISP, as the company's Facility Security Officer. In this new role, Howell will provide oversight for all of Merrick's security programs associated with Federal and commercial clients, and will coordinate and monitor all aspects of U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission projects to ensure compliance with government and company security policies and procedures.



Trey Howell

Merrick & Company, an \$85 million engineering, architecture, design-build, surveying, and geospatial solutions firm, serves domestic and international clients in the geospatial technologies, mapping, energy, security, and life sciences markets.

Centennial Council Member Appointed to National League of Cities Steering Committee

The **City of Centennial's** District 4 Council Member Ron Weidmann, has been appointed to the Steering Committee for Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities.

The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. Its mission is to strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance. For more information about the National League of Cities visit www.nlc.org.

Renewals

401(k) Advisors USA
A Black Orchid
Abilene Awards & Logos
Adams County Board of Commissioners
Advanced Circuits
American Family Insurance - Rose
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Associates Insurance Group
Aurora Housing Authority
Autawash of Colorado-Havana
Bank of the West
Town of Bennett
Bent Fork American Grill
City of Centennial
City Lights Apartments
Community College of Aurora

Courtyard DIA
Credit Union of Colorado
Doubletree Hotel Aurora SE
Drury Inn & Suites Denver - Tech Ctr
Embassy Suites - DTC
Enternet Design
Executive Merchant Services
Fairfield Inn - Denver/Aurora
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Foremost Flooring, Inc.
Freund & Company
Gary Gilliard
Goodwill Industries of Denver
Homewood Suites Denver
International Airport
Intermountain REA
JHB International, Inc.

Bob LeGare
Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.
Metro State College of Denver
Morin Wood Finesse
National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors
Padgett Business Services
Renaissance Denver Hotel
Ryden & Associates
TGDanzport Studio
Tilden Car Care
USO Rocky Mountain
Wagner Law Office
Windsor Gardens Association

NEW MEMBERS

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The Interface Financial Group
Travel n Relax, Inc.
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VM Direct Colorado