



IMPACT

NOV/DEC
2010

Upcoming Events

November

Business Before Hours

Nov 10 | 7:30 a.m.
TCF Bank, 1710 Havana St.

Veterans Day

Nov 11
Chamber Office closed

Member Orientation

Nov 17 | 12 noon
The Chamber Office

Business After Hours

Nov 18 | 5-7 p.m.
Embassy Suites Denver/Aurora
4444 Havana St.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 25 & 26
Chamber Office closed

December

"Niche" Networking

Dec 8 | 11:30 a.m.
Costco Membership Warehouse
1471 S. Havana St.

Chamber Holiday Party

Dec 16 | 5-7 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA
15500 E. 40th Ave.

General Membership Luncheon

TBA

Connect With Us!



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



Just another fabulous Ambassador retreat

Combine about 40 of the Chamber's Ambassadors, a beautiful weekend in Estes Park, Colo., games, food, camaraderie and conversation – and the result is another successful Ambassador retreat.

As messengers of the Chamber, the Ambassadors represent the Chamber at ribbon cuttings and grand openings, deliver new member and renewal packets, respond to questions, gather membership information and promote existing Chamber programs. They earn points for volunteer work and membership recruitment, and top point earners are recognized annually with *Essential Piece* awards. 2010 marks the third year of the *Essential Piece* recognition program in the Ambassadors' Club. This year's winners are:



First Year Winners:

- Jeanne Barber, **Artistic Apparel**
- Teri Karjala, **Creative Counseling Center**
- Howie Metz, **Quality 1st Plumbing**
- Shane Sale, **VM Direct Colorado**
- Trish Saunders, **RR Partners, LLC**
- Mark Werner, **Great Western Printing**

Second Year Winners:

- Christine Aguilar, **World Financial Group**
- Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Credit Union**
- Debbie Gilliard, **Metropolitan State College of Denver**
- Brian Molitoris, **Molitoris Photography**
- Debbie Mueller, **MuellerTime Designs**
- Sandie Preuss, **E Travel Unlimited**

Third Year Winners:

- Scott Mueller, **MuellerTime Designs**
- Ken Preuss, **E Travel Unlimited**

Honorees were recognized at the retreat by Chamber Board Ambassador Liaison Tammy Fernandez, a vice president with the **University of Phoenix**.

Following the retreat, Chamber President Kevin Hougen congratulated this year's winners, extending his appreciation to all the Ambassadors "for spreading the word, and enthusiasm for the Chamber." He also welcomed the new 2010-11 Ambassador co-chairs, Sandy Pruess of **E Travel Unlimited** and Howie Metz with **Quality 1st Plumbing**.

For information about the Ambassador program, contact Mary Beth Sharp at 303-344-1500 or Marybeth.Sharp@aurorachamber.org.

NO, NO, and NO



Following a unanimous vote by the Chamber Board to oppose Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101, Chamber President Kevin Hougen (left) made more than 60 "Ugly 3" presentations throughout the eastern metro area, in order to educate voters on the dangers of the three ballot issues. Chamber Vice President George Peck (right) also gave presentations about the measures. The Chamber distributed more than 1,600 of the "No" yard signs. (Chamber Photo)

Save the Date!

Business After Hours / Holiday Event

December 16 • 5-7 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel

15500 E. 40th Ave.

Receive
the **IMPACT**
online

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

If you would like to get the IMPACT newsletter online only, please email Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org, and you will no longer receive a printed copy in the mail. Instead, you will get a message via email each month to view the newsletter online.



Mark Moses
Chair

Chair's Letter

As small businesses struggle to maneuver their way toward economic recovery, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is working to supply members with the tools that will help them to make informed decisions. We have also

worked hard to provide our business community with the resources necessary to help them educate and engage voters during this past election season.

Networking

One of the most powerful tools we can provide is the many networking events available to our members. Over the past two months the Chamber held more than 50 committee and networking events ranging from "Elevate Colorado," the debate between our candidates for Governor at which there were more than 400 attendees, to our new Manufacturing Forum, which helped Colorado companies do business with multiple government agencies in the State and Federal arenas. An October luncheon brought together more than 200 business members, students and teachers to discuss the challenges we all face in understanding the 2,500-page healthcare law that people often refer to as "Obamacare." This new legislation calls for hundreds of billions of dollars in business taxes and includes a requirement that businesses file 1099 forms for both services and products anytime they exceed \$600 in a year. Costs are estimated to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2 trillion dollars.

Advocacy

A key reason many of you are Chamber members is that we are a trusted advocate of the business community. Whether you're talking about energy, education or trade, in today's economy each issue is weighed by its impact on Colorado jobs. In the last few years, government intervention and regulation have grown and job creators and businesses have receded—and we've made sure that those in government know this is not an acceptable situation.

Your Chamber of Commerce is also looking at the storm clouds that are gathering on the horizon for small business owners in the form of the so-called "financial regulatory overhaul." Similar to the healthcare law, this 2,300-page financial regulatory reform law will require thousands of pages of implementing regulations. After a Chamber review of the law, we discovered that it calls for 520 regulatory rulemakings, 81 studies and 93 reports. We are carefully studying the costs associated with the financial reform bill

and the burdens this will cause our banks, credit unions and financial institutions.

Finally, individuals and business owners are facing trillions of dollars in tax hikes come January 1, 2011, unless Congress acts to renew tax relief, including lower marginal income tax rates on capital gains and dividends enacted over the past decade. We have continued to be your business advocate at the federal level, working with Congressional staffer and the US Chamber to ensure the need for relief from burdensome and unnecessary taxes is addressed.

Uncertainty is the Enemy

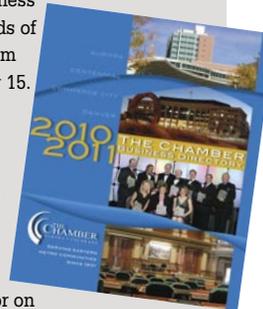
In this uncertain and unpredictable financial climate, businesses are reacting by sitting on capital, afraid to invest or hire. I've heard time and again that companies are not hiring because no one seems to know what's going to happen. In fact, a June Federal Reserve report says that U.S. businesses are sitting on a record \$1.8 trillion in cash reserves but are afraid to spend because of the uncertainty in our business models. We will continue to work to restore a healthy business climate where pent up investment capital can be released creating a much more favorable jobs environment.

By the time you read this article, the November 2 election will have passed. It will be interesting what path the voters of Colorado and the United States choose regarding our future leadership. You can be sure your Chamber will be letting the new elected leaders know where WE stand.

2011 Chamber Directory coming in January

We want to help to make your business successful: Put your business name in front of thousands of contacts when you confirm your listing by November 15.

To be included in the 2011 Aurora Chamber Membership Directory, simply confirm or change the information sent to you by email from Linda Lillyblad, Aurora Chamber Finance Director on October 20 with CONFIRM HERE as the subject. If you do not have the email or need help filling it out, contact Linda at Linda.Lillyblad@aurorachamber.org or 303-344-1500.



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 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.

Chamber Board

Executive Directors

Chair of the Board
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouses
Chair Elect
David Gruber | Merlin International
Secretary
Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union

Treasurer
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora

Immediate Past Chair
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

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

Vice Chair-Healthcare
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Vice Chair-Business Development
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

Vice Chair-Member Services
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

Vice Chair-Public Affairs
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Hospital

Directors

Rich Allison | *Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company*
Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*
Bill Becker | *Adams County Economic Development*
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*
Mickey Hunt | *Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*
Bob Jamieson | *Mutual of Omaha*
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
Michael Martin | *Qwest Communications*
John McCloy | *Westerra Credit Union*
Todd Miller | *City of Centennial*
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*
David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, GMC*
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Julie Taylor | *The Medical Center of Aurora*
Dwight Taylor | *Edwards & Taylor LLC*
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*
Michael Wukitsch | *The Children's Hospital*

Staff

President & CEO
Kevin Hougen
Sales & Marketing
Naomi Colwell
Leadership Director
Kimberly Curtis
Secretary
Janice Cooper
Finance Director
Linda Lillyblad
Senior Vice President
George Peck
VP, Membership Development
Paul Rosenberg
Communications
Mitzi Schindler
Membership Services
Mary Beth Sharp
.....
Newsletter Design
Mario Waller / Six & Six, inc.

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Four Chamber member companies recognized with Sloan Award for exemplary workplace practices

Congratulations to **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, Aurora Mental Health Center, E-470 Public Highway Authority, and McGladrey**, who have been honored with 2010 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

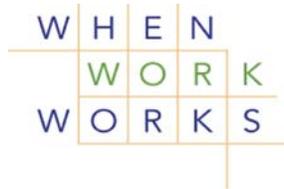
The Alfred P. Sloan Awards are part of the national *When Work Works* project, an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), and the Twiga Foundation. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is the official *When Work Works* partner for the greater Denver-Aurora area. This prestigious award recognizes employers of all sizes and types in the greater Denver-Aurora area and across the country that are using workplace flexibility as a strategy to increase workplace effectiveness and yield positive business results.

The selection process for the award is rigorous. First, employers' flexibility programs and practices

are measured against national norms from Families and Work Institute's National Study of Employers. Employees are then surveyed confidentially on their access to flexible work options, the supportiveness of the culture and on nationally tested measures of workplace effectiveness.

"As recipients of the 2010 Sloan Award, these organizations rank in the top 20 percent of employers nationally in terms of their programs, policies and culture for creating an effective and flexible workplace," states Ellen Galinsky, president of Families and Work Institute. "In addition, what makes this honor so special is that employees have corroborated this, affirming that it is indeed an effective and flexible workplace."

Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, Aurora Mental Health Center, E-470 Public Highway Authority, and McGladrey, will be recognized at an upcoming event in December 2010, hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Details to come.



First Manufacturer's Conference is a big success

More than 40 people took part in the first Manufacturer's Forum Oct. 13-14 at the **Renaissance Denver Hotel**. The forum, designed to open the doors to government supplier opportunities for small businesses, was organized by



the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**, U.S. Women's Chamber, National Association of Small Business Contractors and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center-Colorado. It featured speakers and hands-on training with the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Supply Center Columbus Small Business Programs Office, PTAC Colorado, the Defense Contract Management Agency and the Small Business Administration.

Participants included business people and entrepreneurs from all over Colorado as well as nearby states, who saw the chance to tap into the thousands of government business opportunities. The Forum, which also served as the Colorado Supplier Council Fall Meeting, came out of discussions at the Chamber's Defense Council on how to better build understanding of small business opportunities in the Federal government. The event was supported by a special committee made up of Lisa Buckley, **American Automation**; Suzanne Pitrusu, **Wells Fargo Banks**; Steve Ferency, **Renaissance Hotel Denver Stapleton**; and Kathryn Lobdell with **PTAC Colorado**.

"This was great success," said Buckley, who participated on both days and sponsored a small networking event for the participants. "We intend to make this an annual event."

Leadership Aurora 2010-2011 retreat, Sept. 2010: A great time was had by all – and this is just the beginning!

Between September and June, the Leadership class experiences full-day explorations in Community, Economic and Infrastructure, Healthcare, Education, Fire, Police, Media, Military. They are also involved in community explorations and class projects. It will be a busy year for these people.

The benefits of the Leadership Aurora program include both benefits for the individuals as well as for the community.

Participants benefit by:

- A strengthened sense of personal vision and power
- Development of an awareness of issues and challenges facing the community
- Discovery of leadership strengths, an increase in leadership skills, and a recognition of where their own unique contribution can be given
- A greater ability to articulate a vision of the community and translate that vision into action
- The rewards of networking with a diverse group of community leaders
- An opportunity to make a difference in the community
- Establishing a network of people with shared experiences and a common frame of reference

The community benefits by:

- An ever-increasing source of quality leaders
- An improved communications network among civil, social, education and business leaders
- An informed group of leaders who are willing to make a difference in the community
- A leadership base with a broadened perspective that is prepared to more effectively guide Aurora into its future

For more information about the Leadership Aurora program of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, contact the program director, Kimberly Curtis at Kimberly.Curtis@aurorachamber.org or 303-344-1500.



Sharon Perry, Citywide Banks; Kim Sopoci, Kim Sopoci Private Fitness Studio; and Sue Wehrspann, University of Colorado Hospital.



Class members participate in teambuilding exercises

(Photos by Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)



Aurora Leadership Class of 2010-11

Ribbon Cuttings



Turn the key and cut the ribbon! — The Key Bank at Havana Gardens in the Havana Business Improvement District celebrates their much anticipated ribbon cutting on August 17. Senior Business Banking Relationship Manager Jon Halverson cuts the ribbon for the bank's newest location in Aurora, as employees, and Chamber Ambassadors and staff share in the festivities. Staff at the Havana Gardens Key Bank includes Lyn Story, branch manager; Michelle Atencio and Michelle Blott, relationship managers; Norma Trinidad, client service manager; Lupe Murillo and Amanda Bryant, tellers; Debbie Trujillo, Key@Work and Hispanic relationship manager; and Darcy Lacy, Key merchant services. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Big smiles for the camera! — Everyone is smiling at the August 12 ribbon cutting ceremony for Heather Park Dental Care at 6262 South Parker Road, #300 — especially Dr. Raymond Evans and Dr. Phillip J. Riesselman! They are surrounded by Chamber Ambassadors and staff, as well as Heather Park staff, including Colleen Betherum, hygienist; Wendy Cozza, dental assistant; Christine Forbes, dental assistant; Karen Wiesjhan, office manager; Jan York, receptionist; Shamika Miles, hygiene assistant; Nancy Hill, hygienist; Gabriella Terry, dental/hygiene assistant; Vy Tai, hygiene assistant; and Monica Parra, financial coordinator. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



A toast to wine, cheese and fine dining! — Eldon Larson, owner of Wine Experience Café & World Cellar, cuts the ribbon while Chamber Board Past President Jo Snell, Chamber Vice President George Peck and Chamber Marketing Director Naomi Colwell join a number of other Chamber Ambassadors and guests in a Chateau Bernadotte toast to the opening of The Cheese Shop in the Café. Joining Larson (center) were Executive Chef Jason Lee and General Manager Chris McCullem who helped the guests at the event, taste—and appreciate—the many fine cheeses now available at the restaurant and wine cellar. Located at 6240 S. Main Street in Southlands, the Wine Experience Café offers not only fine wines and cheeses, but true gourmet dining as well. Reservations are available at 303-690-1025. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



A New Beginning — Alternatives Pregnancy Center Executive Director Maureen Yockey, Director of Client Services Meredith Howard, and Director of Community Mobilization Marcy McGovern, are joined by Alternatives' board members, volunteers, staff, and Chamber Ambassadors and staff, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new center at 14221 E. 4th Ave., Suite 220. Alternatives Pregnancy Center cares for Metro-area women, men and teens in pregnancy-related crises, offering them meaningful alternatives. Services include a 24-hour helpline, pregnancy testing, ultrasound, confidential consultation, adoption education, pre- and post-natal medical care referrals, financial and legal assistance, post-abortion counseling, success development curriculum, and abstinence education. All services are provided free of charge. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Just a little to the left, Doc! — Erin McCarty, D.C., carefully cuts the ribbon for **Peak Health Chiropractic** at 13690 E. Iliff Ave., Unit C. At **Peak Health Chiropractic**, their goal is to treat the source of pain and to help patients restore and achieve maximum health and be free of the need for continuing care. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Let the learning begin! — Adnan Doyuran, PhD, principal of the **Lotus School for Excellence**, cuts the ribbon August 20 for the school's permanent campus at Alameda and Havana. To the left of Doyuran is **APS Schools** Superintendent John Barry. **Lotus School** is the only math, science, and technology charter school in Aurora, and has a planned capacity of 700 students, grades 6-12 by 2011-2012. The school offers a rigorous, innovative, and challenging curriculum with a focus on preparing students to pursue higher education. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Another YMCA – Hip, Hip Hooray! Marissa Murdock, Jr. Miss Teen Colorado, cuts the ribbon for the new **YMCA Aurora at Southlands Shopping Center**, 6155 S. Main Street, Suite 220. Standing behind Marissa is Kimberly Armitage, executive director of the **Aurora Family YMCA**. The **YMCA** is an independent, not-for-profit association of members, volunteers, contributors and staff whose common goal is to provide quality programs which promote good health, strong families, youth and development, enhance human and community growth and international understanding. Their overall goal is to strengthen the total person so each individual may reach his/her highest potential and enjoy increased well-being. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



More Space, More Learning! — Nathan Larson, regional director of **CollegeAmerica**, cuts the ribbon for their additional campus space at 1385 S. Colorado Blvd., while faculty, staff and Chamber Ambassadors look on. **CollegeAmerica**, established in 1964, offers degrees in Graphic Arts, Business Accounting, Technology, and Healthcare. For more information, go to www.collegeamerica.edu. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Groundbreaking



Lots of shovels, and an extra special guest! – From left to right, breaking ground for the newest Famous Dave's at 15725 E. Briarwood Circle, are Jesse Horton, vice president, Christofferson Construction; Curt Christofferson, president, Christofferson Construction; Heather Jones, Famous Dave's Facebook Contest Winner; Kevin Hougen, president, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Brad Pierce, Aurora City Council; Jeff Dahlberg, Chairman of the Board of Famous Dave's of America; Bill Ferguson, president, Basic Food Group (franchisee of Famous Dave's of America); John Perkins, president, Collegiate Peaks Bank; Laura Carstenson, Alberta Development; and Matt Duguay, general manager, Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que. The restaurant is scheduled to open in December 2010. Also joining in the festivities is Wilbur – Famous Dave's friendly mascot.



Member News

A&P: One of the Safest

EHS Today recently named **Adolfson & Peterson Construction** as one of 12 of America's safest companies in 2010. To be considered for this designation, organizations must demonstrate support from management and employee involvement; innovative solutions to safety challenges; comprehensive training programs; evidence that prevention of incidents is the cornerstone of the safety process; and communication about the value of safety.

Aurora Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People

Aurora was named by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. The 100 Best designation recognizes communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. In addition to enhancing local educational opportunities, most winning communities have taken steps to facilitate improved access to health care for its young people, encourage youth civic engagement and supply developmental resources that create better places for young people to live and grow. Its 2010 recognition marks the first win for **Aurora** in the competition.

The ACE Program looking for businesses

The ACE Program (Alternative Cooperative Education Program) in **Aurora Public Schools** works with high school students to involve them in work-related experiences and to help them develop employability skills. The ACE Program is looking for businesses in the Aurora area that might have opportunities for students to be employed, volunteer, or work in some sort of internship capacity. The program provides support for employers and these students as they work through these experiences. For more information, contact Bob Simon, 303-587-3184 / rmsimon@aps.k12.co.us; or Carolyn Todd, 720-234-4906 / cmtdodd@aps.k12.co.us.



Chancey and Sons, Inc., employees Jake Hofer and Quinton Swanson recently used their carpet cleaning expertise at the Chamber offices. Thanks for a great job!

Colorado Insurance Professionals receives Pinnacle Assurance Circle of Safety Award

In recognition of their exceptional performance in safety, loss prevention and claims management, **Colorado Insurance Professionals** was recently honored as a 2010 recipient of **Pinnacle Assurance's** third annual Circle of Safety Awards.

Eligibility for the Circle of Safety Award includes:

- .85 or less Experience Modification Rating for each policy period
- Combined four-year loss ratio of 25 percent or less
- 80 percent or more of all claims reported within 48 hours (combined four-year history)
- Designated providers each year
- Two or less notices of cancellation each year

- No non-compliant audits
- Must currently hold the State of Colorado's Cost Containment Certification
- No fatalities
- Approved return-to-work program

The Circle of Safety Award recognizes the "circle" of people required to excel in risk management. From top management and frontline employees to **Pinnacle** representatives and the policyholders' agents, everyone has a hand in making Colorado workplaces safer.

Colorado Insurance Professionals is one of 50 Colorado Businesses that received the award.

Bowman on board of the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence

Dr. Linda Bowman has been named to the board of directors of The Colorado Center for Nursing



Dr. Linda Bowman

Excellence. Bowman has been president of the **Community College of Aurora** since 2000, and has served as the vice president for Academic and Student Affairs for the Colorado Community College system. She served as the Aurora Chamber Board Chair in 2004-05 and currently chairs the Chamber's Education Committee.

Centennial recognized by the APA

The **City of Centennial's** Land Development Code (LDC) was selected by the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association as a 2010 Colorado Merit Award winner in the category of Outstanding Planning Project. The project was chosen for a Merit Award because the Awards Committee felt it completed an important "first step" to achieving new methods of planning in the **City of Centennial**. The committee also found the plan to be quite innovative.

The new LDC replaces an outdated Land Development Code that was adopted by the City at the time of incorporation in 2001 and carried over from **Arapahoe County**. The new code is aimed at implementing goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan, various sub-area plans, and Our Voice, Our Vision, Centennial 2030. This latest code seeks to provide additional protections to existing neighborhoods from adjacent commercial development, while allowing development and redevelopment of the City's aging commercial centers in a high-quality manner that citizens expect.

QSE makes list of top private companies

Chamber member and IT support provider, **QSE**, has made the annual list of top private companies in Colorado for the sixth year in a row. The list is compiled annually by *ColoradoBiz Magazine*. To see the complete list, go to <http://www.colobizmag.com>.

Dry Dock wins at Great American Beer Fest

Dry Dock Brewing won silver in four categories at this year's Great American Beer Festival, for their Noble Stuff Export (Dortmunder or German Style Oktoberfest), Bismarck Altbier (German-Style Altbier), U-Boat Hefeweizen (South German-Style Hefeweizen), and Whal Tail Wit (Belgian-Style Witbier).

Huntington elected to Board of Trustees of NAIFA

Matthew S. Huntington, CLU, LUTCF, of **Farmers Insurance**, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors (NAIFA), a trade association representing the interests of life insurance agents and financial advisors. As part of the 17-member Board of Trustees, Huntington will help formulate policy to benefit NAIFA members. Matthew has been a multiline agent with **Farmers Insurance** since 1981 and a member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce since 2001.

MCPN receives \$10.2 million

The Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) was recently notified by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services that it will receive a \$10.2 million expansion grant. The funding will allow MCPN to expand its primary care services in Jefferson County to an additional 10,000 patients.

Merrick wins national ethics award

Merrick & Company has been awarded the 2010 American Business Ethics Award™. The award honors U.S. companies that exemplify high standards of ethical behavior in their everyday business conduct and in response to specific crises or challenges. Three national firms are recognized each year with this award that has been given out for the past 16 years by the Foundation for Financial Service Professionals.

[continued on page 7]

UCH among top 10 of U.S. academic medical centers

The **University of Colorado Hospital (UCH)** has been cited as one of the top 10 academic medical centers in the country based on quality, patient safety and patient satisfaction. The ranking comes after several years of deliberate focus on clinical improvements to become one of the top 10 academic medical centers in the country by 2020. **UCH**, the 28th best-performing academic hospital in 2009, improved to the 8th highest-scoring hospital in the 2010 Quality and Accountability Performance Scorecard, released by the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC).

UHC, which bases its rankings on raw clinical and operational performance data, also recognized **UCH** as a "rising star" among hospitals for overall score improvement. The score is a composite of performance in patient safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient centeredness.

Abrahamson leaves land surveying legacy

Doyle G. Abrahamson, PLS/MS, and vice president, Surveying for **Merrick & Company**, passed away unexpectedly on August 28, 2010. He had been with the



Doyle G. Abrahamson

firm for 31 years and was instrumental in the development and success of **Merrick's** surveying practice. He had been a long standing surveying resource in Colorado and was a recognized expert in Colorado survey law. Surveying was Doyle's passion, both at work and in his personal

life. Abrahamson and his son, Justin, also a surveyor with **Merrick**, were part of a team to retrace and re-monument the original base line monuments set in 1859 marking the original dividing line between the Kansas and Nebraska territories in what is now Colorado.



(Photo courtesy of Capt. Darin Overstreet, Colorado National Guard Public Affairs)

A very 'Special Forces' occasion

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion 19th Special Forces Group, **Colorado National Guard** meet Dawna Teal (left), Marianne Smith, and Chuck Ferris (behind Smith) from the Chamber Defense Council at their August meeting. The highly trained Guardsmen showed off their diverse equipment and skills at the **Front Range Airport** in Watkins, demonstrating what the term Special Forces really means. Hosting a pancake breakfast at the event was **Front Range** executive director Dennis Heap. The crowd of more than 100 Defense Council members was also given a fast-paced mission briefing by Operations Sergeant Major A.J. Johnson under the watchful eye of the Colorado Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Mike Edwards.

Deserved Recognition

Dave Gruber, chair of the Aurora Chamber Defense Council, formally presents a plaque and certificate to Steve Skaladane, Director of Marketing for **Lockheed Martin's** Commercial Launch Services for their lead sponsorship of the highly successful 2010 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon (AFRL). The presentation was made during a special ceremony at the September Defense Council meeting at Buckley Air Force Base hosted by **460th Space Wing** Commander, Col. Clint Crosier. Others honored included **Rural Metro Ambulance**, the Media Sponsor; **TriWest Healthcare Alliance**, the Pre-Reception Sponsor; and corporate sponsors **Aurora Credit Union Alliance, City of Aurora, Boeing, Hilton Garden Inn DIA, Adolphson & Peterson Construction, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Wells Fargo Banks, American Automation, Ent Federal Credit Union, Westerra Credit Union** and the **Aurora Sentinel**. Also receiving special recognition from Gruber and the Council was the AFRL Chair, Suzanne Pitrusu with **Wells Fargo Banks**.



Dave Gruber and Steve Skaladane



Dave Gruber and Suzanne Pitrusu

(Photos courtesy 460th SW Public Affairs)



Plant it with a smile – Carol O'Shea puts a shovel of dirt to help prop up the newly planted bristlecone pine watched carefully by Baylor Stef and **Waste Management of Colorado's** CO/UT Manager of Legislative Affairs Scott "Hutch" Hutchings. O'Shea, the supervisor of victim's services for the **Aurora Police Department** was the recipient of the prestigious **Circle of Life** award for her lasting and positive impact on the community and extraordinary and inspirational work with the APD. O'Shea has also won a Chamber Humanitarian Award. Past recipients of the Circle of Life include former Mayor Paul Tauer, former City Councilman Steve Hogan and Chamber President Kevin Hougen. The special trees can all be found in Aurora's Moorhead Park. (Chamber photo)

Business-to-Business Expo



It's a Tips and Leads reunion at the August 26 Business-to-Business Expo/Business After Hours. Left to right: Ann Bagwell, **Colorado State Bank and Trust Mortgage**; Jerri Grable Mullis, **Coldwell Banker Residential**; Pat Pogue, **Edward Jones Investments**; Paul Rosenberg, **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**; and Luz Duran, **TCF Bank**. The picture was taken by photographer **Brian Molitoris, Photographer**, also a member of the group. The Business-to-Business Expo/Business After Hours was hosted by the **Red Lion Hotel** at Parker Rd. & I-225. It included more than 45 booths of Chamber members showcasing their businesses, along with government agencies providing information on how to do business with the agencies. The evening also featured wonderful food and networking opportunities. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Healthcare discussion sparks interest

The complications and questions surrounding healthcare reform were the topics of discussion presented by Bill Lindsay, president of the Benefits Group at Lockton Companies and Chair of the Denver Chamber board, at an Oct. 13 healthcare forum on the **Anschutz Medical Campus**.

Following Lindsay's presentation, a break-out session was held to discuss the healthcare survey for Chamber members, presented by the **Central Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC)**. Kristina Wenzel, executive director of the **Central Colorado AHEC**, presented the broad list of the industries that self-identified in their survey responses, to include telecommunications, retail, non-profit, construction, health care, financial services, legal, professional services, marketing, printing/publishing, lending, education, insurance,

restaurant, government, aerospace/defense, auto body repair, motivational training.

The largest group of respondents had 11-50 employees (30), with the next group being 2-10 employees (25). In his presentation, Lindsay had talked about the large percentage of small businesses in Colorado (98 percent have 500 or less employees). Top priority issues for employers and employees who completed the survey were the cost of insurance, healthcare reform and workforce, and prevention/health promotion coverage.

The Chamber is in the process of forming a healthcare committee that will address a variety of issues. This forum and discussion provided additional information about potential focus for the committee.

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