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THE CHAMBER Impact

JULY/AUG 2021

A Few Things I Learned During COVID

Once I got past the major decisions like working from home, vaccine or no vaccine, mask or no mask, and lastly, those varied family and friends ground rules – a few things became very clear to me. I am a people person, and many folks



Chad Nielsen

Chair

Wagner Equipment

are not. No judgement: people are just different. Introverts and extraverts alike had to navigate and adjust to attending meeting after meeting on Zoom or WebEx, and of course listen to the dreaded “you’re on mute” banter.

Adapt and overcome, went from a motto to a real-life skill. Restaurants had to go from dine-in to fully take-out, teachers had to teach classes virtually, and a lot of us learned to work from home. I of course struggled with working from home because I like to be around people. Many of my more introverted coworkers could not stop telling me how much more work they got done at home. I must admit I had several days

working from home that felt very productive. I also found out that working from home was not kind to my waistline. I will blame my wife – for coping with the pandemic by baking so many cookies.

Grocery store curbside pick-up went from a novelty to a much-appreciated convenience. It reminds me of when there was an attendant at the gas station to pump your gas and wash your windows.

Small business owners are resilient. On any normal day, owning and operating a small business is challenging. I cannot imagine what it was like to have to close the doors to your restaurant, nail salon, barber shop, bar, etc. Many of you faced these challenges and found ways to survive over the last 18 months, and some did not.

Are you working to rebuild your business? Chamber staff would love to hear from you about how they can help you and your business.

Healthcare workers and first responders are heroes that embrace the risk of contracting COVID to care for and heal the sick. I witnessed firsthand the compassion and professionalism while visiting a friend whose daughter was in the ICU battling COVID. We cannot say thank you enough.

In addition to healthcare workers, there are many other community champions and heroes that went above and beyond during

the pandemic – with innovation, kindness, creativity, resilience, and community spirit.

On October 15, 2021, The Chamber will recognize and honor community champions – from all industries. Nominations can be made on the Chamber Website at www.aurorachamber.org, and go to October 15 “Honoring Our Community Champions ‘We’re All in This Together!’” The event will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver, at 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

During this past 18 months, physical and mental health were especially important. I had never heard the term “co-morbidities” – among others – until the pandemic started. We were suddenly forced to reflect on our own health and the health of families and friends. We had to ask ourselves questions, including what risk factors do I have, and how do I protect my aging family members or young children? This obviously caused much stress. The Chamber responded by hosting many programs focused on mental health and adaptation in the face of COVID and its impacts. Good job!

The Chamber staff has been busy, as always, seeking innovative ways to support our community in the face of COVID; by offering web meetings on a variety of related topics. In fact, attendance numbers at our various committee meetings rose

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Schedule of Events

45th Annual

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

Friday, Aug 20, 2021

11:30am - 1:30pm

DoubleTree by Hotel Denver

3203 Quebec St. (Quebec & MLK Jr. Blvd.)
Denver, CO 80207

Honoring Our Community Champions

“We’re All in This Together”

Friday, Oct 15, 2021

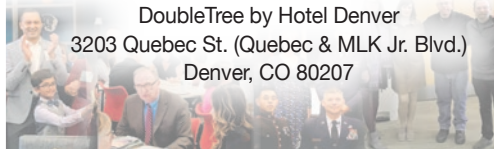
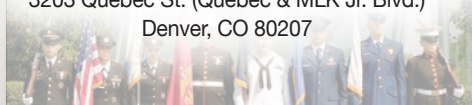
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

DoubleTree by Hotel Denver

3203 Quebec St. (Quebec & MLK Jr. Blvd.)
Denver, CO 80207

23rd Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

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To see upcoming Chamber meetings
as well as Chamber member events –
go to the calendar!

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ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Changing the Course for Arts Programming Tuesday, May 4, 2021

By Renee Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair



Lisa Mumpton

Lisa Mumpton, cultural arts supervisor with the City of Aurora kicked off the May meeting with a recap of how the Aurora Cultural Arts Division adapted to the pandemic and will continue to adjust and evolve to create opportunities for residents to take classes. From developing new procedures and policies and protecting staff and students, to repurposing city spaces to accommodate distanced, in-person classes, Mumpton and her team have worked hard to keep the Cultural Arts going in Aurora. Online classes, performances, and radio shows helped to keep residents engaged.

This summer, there will be one Aurora Rhythms concert – likely in August, with registration required. The Compass program will re-start this summer, as well. The Dance Arts continuous program will resume fall 2021, with a recital in the spring, but for the time being, there will be no extracurricular productions. One step at a time!



Helen Murray

Helen Murray, executive producer at The Aurora Fox Arts Center, along with theatre managers everywhere, spent the past year watching revenues dwindle as expenses rose. Creative solutions became the only choice! The Aurora Fox offered various alternatives to live theatre, including Meet the Artist Interviews and Facebook concerts, and they built a Virtual Studio for hosting a Virtual Talk Show. Fitzsimons Credit Union pivoted their usual sponsorship dollars and became the Virtual Studio stage sponsor.

The Little Foxes summer program for kids was able to proceed with masked kids and a virtual performance. The Fox also purchased a Vimeo membership to create better quality

videos and to utilize live streaming on Facebook and Instagram – but will refocus on live theatre as we emerge from the pandemic.

Murray also acknowledged the “collective trauma” the world has experienced, and that it will take time for people to feel safe attending large events again. “It is not just about being safe but also creating an atmosphere of safety,” she said.

To that end, Murray continues to monitor the CDC guidelines and consults with the Tri-County Health Department to keep current the ever-changing safety policies and procedures. The staff are all vaccinated, but they continue weekly testing and all safety protocols. The Fox is well set up for bubble seating and limited exposure, which helps a lot, and they ask guests to consider buying all the tickets in the bubble, e.g.: If only 2 of 4 seats are purchased in a bubble, the theatre loses more revenue because the other two seats cannot be sold.

As we work our way out of the pandemic, creativity, innovation, and technology are all tools being used to make people comfortable and safe – and to bring back the cultural and performance arts.

[continued on page 3]

ChamberBoard

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DON'T FORGET: “Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber”
Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

THE CHAMBER'S MISSION



The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality

Local and National Proposed Legislation to Support the Arts Tuesday, June 1, 2021

By Renee Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair



Meredith Badler

Per usual, Meredith Badler, deputy director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA), shared data that overwhelmingly reinforces the 'always necessary' – but as COVID winds down – the critical need for Arts Advocacy at every level.

In 2019, the National Creative Economy was nearly \$1 trillion and there were more than 5.2 million arts and creative jobs. Of Colorado's 2019 state revenue, the Creative Economy brought in \$16.3 billion or 4.1 percent of Colorado's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provided 108,462 jobs. That is more jobs than transportation, mining, or agriculture in the State.

Now, Colorado reports 63 percent unemployment for creative workers and 37 percent nonprofit arts jobs lost. As of fall 2020, there has been a more than 30 percent contraction of the creative sector.

**THERE IS NO
RECOVERY
WITHOUT
CREATIVITY.**

The Arts are an industry, not a cause," said Badler. "And they foster a workforce with incredible social impact." The arts are seen as a positive experience by 81 percent of the population, especially in a troubled world. It has been shown that the arts unify communities, improve individual well-being and academic performance, increase civic engagement and social cohesion, and improve healthcare and healing.

These are recognized benefits of the arts and are the rationale and reasons for National attention and legislative action. There are several bills and movements currently being championed in Washington D.C., including:

- House/Senate Appropriations for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Arts & Military and NEA's Creative Forces program
- Put Creative Workers to Work

- Congressional Arts Handbook
- Congressional Arts and STEAM Caucuses

If you feel drawn to action and want to get involved, go to CBCA's Advocacy and Actions site: www.cbca.org/advocacy.

TRANSPORTATION

Into the Future! Wednesday, May 5, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The Transportation committee celebrated Cinco de Mayo by traveling to the future on May 5!

Amy Ford, director of Advanced Mobility at member firm Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig, talked about emerging transportation technologies including connected, autonomous, shared, and electric vehicles.



Amy Ford

All these new technologies will impact the world of transportation, so Ford was both educating about, and cautioning on, the need for responsive changes by both businesses and communities. She pointed out the potential opportunities for improvements to safety, congestion levels, and air quality – along with the required changes to infrastructure for implementation. Development of some supporting infrastructure such as charging stations for electric vehicles has begun but will likely need to be expanded as the technologies become more widespread.

Similarly, some of the proposed Mobility Hubs – which are dedicated locations for switching modes of transport – could include scooters, bicycles, carshare services, and/or links to buses or micro transit services. These Hubs, which ease and encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation, have begun to be constructed, but absolutely need to be more common to achieve the desired goals. And, of course, all these technologies require access to and integration of data to support planning and investment decisions.

Daniel Hutton, director of Transportation and Mobility for Denver South (formerly Denver South Economic Development



Daniel Hutton

Partnership), described the organization's efforts and accomplishments in enhancing mobility and in positioning Denver South and the I-25 Corridor as a desirable place to live, work, and play. Their 2020 commuter survey showed an increase in telecommuting, which is likely to continue in the future.

Denver South also recently completed a Mobility Evaluation Initiative to improve mobility and ease of commuting for transit users in the "first and last mile." The initiative looks at alternative modes, technology applications, and partnerships among agencies and/or companies to make it easier for people to commute without using their vehicle. Denver South received grants to fund integration of data from all mobility providers and is working with RTD on implementation of a regional wayfinding app.

Denver South's newest initiatives include working with the University of Denver and TomTom to provide data to Centennial and Arapahoe County for their Master Transportation Plans and working with OneNetwork to provide corridor travel data to government agencies that often only have data for their own jurisdiction.



Arapahoe County is Stronger Together Wednesday, June 2, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

"Stronger Together" was the theme of the presentation on June 2, 2021, by Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County Director of Public Works and Development.

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CHAIR LETTER (CONT'D)

considerably in the last year.

If you don't know much about our Chamber committees, take a look at pages 2-6, to learn what's happening within each of the committees. COVID or no COVID, The Chamber calendar is full of opportunities to self-develop, network, and connect with Aurora and the surrounding area.

I am happy to announce we returned to in-person meetings beginning Wednesday,

June 23 for the monthly Chamber Board of Directors meeting. Masks are still required for those not vaccinated, when visiting The Chamber office. Please come by and say hello!

Lastly, I would like to thank Rebecca Kelley for her leadership this past year as Chairman of the Board. I have some big shoes to fill. Thanks for your time and attention Rebecca, and most of all your continued support of,

and engagement with, The Chamber.

I look forward to serving as your Board Chair for the coming fiscal year.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce:
Community First, Business Always.

Sincerely,

Chad Nielsen
Chairman



Bryan Weimer



Weimer said that in addition to all the projects going on, that the agency is busy preparing for re-accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The accreditation recognizes the agency's capabilities and commitment to quality service for its citizens, and it is worth noting that Arapahoe is the only County in Colorado with this accreditation.

Weimer gave an update on this year's Senate Bill 260, which will provide an average of \$1.9 million additional revenue per year to Arapahoe County for the next 10 years, through a variety of new fees and programs. He also mentioned that Congress is discussing new funding for infrastructure, but its impact on funding levels is a long way from being determined.

Traffic congestion on the County's critical corridors dropped significantly in 2020 due to many people working from home during COVID. Weekday congestion is once again increasing, but is still below pre-COVID levels, and weekend congestion has returned to pre-COVID levels.

The draft of the County's Transportation Master Plan will be released for public comment in June. Citizen input identified congestion as the number one concern, with safety as the number two issue to be addressed. Major improvement projects in various stages of development include improvements to interchanges on I-70 at Airpark and Watkins and I-25 and Belleview, the intersection of Quincy and Gun Club, and Iliff Avenue from Quebec to Parker Road. Inverness Drive West between Dry Creek and County Line will go on a "diet" this fall with installation of roundabouts and bike lanes added to the street, the widening of Gun Club south of Quincy is being designed, and the ramp from Dry Creek Road to southbound I-25 will be widened to increase storage on the ramp.

Other major initiatives within the agency are revision of the utility location policy, update of the Traffic Operation Policy and Procedure Manual, and initiation of a fiber optic master plan in coordination with the cities of Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, and Englewood along with CDOT and E-470. A true example of "Stronger Together!"

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

DA John Kellner Discusses Vision and Core Values

Thursday, May 6, 2021

The Government Affairs Meeting on May 6 featured John Kellner, District Attorney (DA) for the 18th Judicial District.



DA John Kellner



DA Keller discussed his vision and core values of community, transparency, responsiveness to victims, and equal justice for all. His focus areas include targeting illegal guns, juvenile and adult diversion programs, and addressing addiction through problem solving courts. DA Kellner also discussed plans to reduce the current case backlog resulting from pandemic lockdowns and some of the challenges related to rising crime trends.

DA Kellner's experience includes U.S. Marine Corps Judge Advocate, Boulder Deputy District Attorney, and a member of the 18th Judicial Districts Cold Case Unit. The 18th Judicial District is one of the largest with over 650,000 residents in the district. DA Keller is responsible for grand jury investigations, charging decisions, plea agreements, victim services, problem solving courts and consumer fraud protection.

Current Legislative Session Update

Thursday, June 3, 2021



Loren Furman



Loren Furman, senior vice president of State & Federal Relations for the Colorado Chamber of Commerce presented to the Governmental Affairs Committee on June 3 about the Legislative session that would end June 8.

Furman shared highlights of the session and addressed bills that were still in process. She discussed two major pieces of legislation:

- 1 Senate Bill 21-260 - Transportation funding, which passed on June 2. This bill adds \$5.4 Billion in transportation funding to Colorado over 10 years.
- 2 House Bill 1232: The Public Option Bill. The original version of this bill required health care plans to drop premiums by 20 percent by 2024, while the final bill lowered that to 15 percent. The original bill also required mandatory participation for doctors, hospitals, and health care plans. The final bill that was passed, removed penalties for doctors who did not comply with mandatory participation and loosened the enforcement provisions for hospitals by removing the loss of licensure provision. The Chamber opposed this bill, due to fundamental cost-shifting concerns.

The Government Affairs/Public Issues Committee is sponsored by



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Pandemic Workplace Blues: How to Connect with Others Through Inclusive Leadership.

Friday, May 14, 2021

In May, The Diversity & Inclusion Council partnered with Colorado Technical University to host a discussion titled Pandemic Workplace Blues: How to Connect with Others Through Inclusive Leadership.

Trish Elley, PhD, business lead instructor, and Sherri Adams, PhD, PHR, assistant professor of business with Colorado Technical University, talked about how managers can learn how to become more inclusive leaders, to help recruit and maintain key individuals in the workplace. This training also can work to close any equity gaps and to encourage and maintain employee engagement.

Many organizations lost key and diverse employees during the pandemic, which resulted in productivity and profit losses. The discussion included identifying management approaches to help improve diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, how to identify communication approaches for leaders to maintain staff members, and how to develop a plan to improve employee engagement from a leader's perspective in the workplace – for in-person, remote, or a hybrid communication.

Elley and Adams offered key takeaways on how develop a plan to improve employee engagement in the workplace from a leader's perspective. As an inclusive leader, they emphasized that it is imperative to be committed to diversity & inclusion in the workplace, to humbly admit mistakes, to be aware of one's own biases and to work hard to overcome them, and to listen with an open mindset and without judgement. With our society continuously evolving, they said that it is important to adapt to change, focus diversity awareness to increase team cohesion, and be empathetic towards each other.

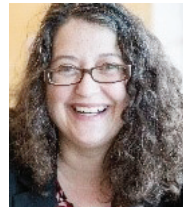
LGBTQ, The Center on Colfax

Friday, June 11, 2021

The Diversity and Inclusion Council was proud to have Johnny Humphrey, a member of its executive committee as the presenter on June 11, 2021. Humphrey, MBA, director of



Sherri Adams



Trish Elley



[continued on page 5]

Inclusivity Services at The Center on Colfax, provided an overview of the Centers' programs, services, and events. Humphrey also leads the agency's RANGE Consulting program.

During this presentation, Humphrey educated the group on the services offered by RANGE Consulting and how they provide strategies for management

and HR to have the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources to support the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) employees, customers, and community members. Humphrey also discussed diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies to employers within the private, nonprofit, and government sectors throughout Colorado.

Some of the key takeaways of this discussion were the key terms and concepts related to the LGBTQ community, and a high-level overview of some best practices for supporting the LGBTQ community. While discussing the future of LGBTQ, Humphrey also shared the LGBTQ history and how the community can be an ally to the organization.

Since 1976, The Center on Colfax has grown to become the largest LGBTQ community center in the Rocky Mountain Region, giving voice to Colorado's LGBTQ community and playing a pivotal role in statewide initiatives to reduce harassment and discrimination.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Johnny Humphrey at: jhumphrey@lgbtqcolorado.org.

*The Diversity and Inclusion Council
is sponsored by*

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Come Get Your Brag On!

Tuesday, May 25, 2021



Jeanette Seibly

Your key to success is promoting yourself in a business savvy manner and that is just what Jeannette Seibly talked about during the Women in Business presentation in May.

As Seibly discussed during her presentation, many people do not like to brag because we have been taught it's wrong and that no one cares. However, it is time to get over that misperception. Her philosophy is,



Johnny Humphrey



"If you can't sell yourself, you cannot sell your products, services, and ideas!" Seibly also went on to remind us that no one will do this for us.

A key factor Seibly emphasized is the power of creating a brag factor that promotes you, your product, and your ideas. Attendees learned how to create a 30 second introduction of themselves describing who they are professionally; keeping it simple and smart - in 20 words or less. She also reminded the audience to think about who their audience is, and to always include numbers when talking about your experience.

"To be successful in business, people must develop the confidence to brag and attract business and/or career opportunities. If you are not confident in yourself, others will see that and tend to look the other way when contemplating a job opportunity or conducting business with your company," said Seibly. "You can use brags to attract funding resources and win contracts and awards."

Seibly is the Leadership Results Coach of SeibCo, LLC, an award-winning executive coach, and Author of "It's Time to Brag! Business Edition" and "The Secret to Selling Yourself Anytime, Anywhere: Start Bragging! Come Get Your Brag On!" For more information on this topic, contact Jeanette Seibly at jseibly@gmail.com.

Language, Communication & Influence

Tuesday, June 22, 2021



Erin Wolf

In June, The Women in Business committee attended a powerful presentation by Erin Wolf, managing partner of SuiteTrack, a company that assists in advancing high-potential professionals and future leaders in the workplace.

The Language, Communication & Influence session focused on what constitutes effective communication in the workplace. Attendees learned how to increase their ability to gain influence and succeed, as they progress through their careers.

Language is an instrument for communicating ideas, a vehicle for negotiating relative status, a tool for power, and a learned social behavior. Speaking well in the workplace helps you get where you want to go, but body language and how words are used are the elements that tell the true story.

Have you ever thought about your speech style? Are you influencing, confident, and do you have high-power speech? If you have low-power speech, you can come across as uncertain. Conversational rituals can also affect the perception of power. These rituals can include using words that feel right without considering their literal meaning, and some

speech rituals can be problematic when the ritual is not recognized.

Other rituals, such as constantly apologizing or excessive thanking – when not warranted – can affect others' perception of you. Wolf said that "According to the experts, women's rituals focus on building rapport while men's rituals focus on status." Wolf also stressed the importance of being aware of our intentions when asking others for their opinions if we don't really want or need them, and also engaging in unwarranted small talk.

Here is an exercise Wolf offered for your next meeting:

Write down everyone's name and then rate their comments:

- 5 = "This is the most insightful comment I've heard in a while"
- 1 = "This is the dumbest comment I've heard in a while"
- 0 = "This person just repeated what someone else said but used different words."

At the end of the meeting, average everyone's score. They may not be as insightful as you thought, but they are speaking up!

Wolf's presentation provided methods of self-observation about speech and body language – and insight on how we present ourselves to others.

Wolf is a nationally recognized speaker, executive coach, and consultant in the areas of leadership development, diversity, organizational change, and organizational strategy, and can be reached at ewolf@suitetrack.com.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

A "Pound" of Prevention

Thursday, May 13, 2021

By Patti Corcoran, Workplace Policy Specialist, TCHD



Patti Corcoran

The Work Well 2.0 meeting on May 13 focused on the importance of a "Pound" of prevention – specifically, how to engage your workforce to catch up on medical screenings.

So why were we talking about a "pound," instead of the usual terminology of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?" Why do we need a pound instead of an ounce? The answer is simple: During the pandemic, as people stayed home and didn't go anywhere they didn't have to, there was a perilous drop in adult and child vaccinations, dental and cancer screenings, mental health support, and medication dosage reviews. The ramifications of these missed screenings for the future, and

[continued on page 6]

if we do not “catch up” on preventive health, are very concerning to health care providers.

Patti Corcoran with Tri-County Health Department shared ways that employers can encourage staff to take the situation seriously, and for everyone to act on their own behalf. Resources include the CDC vaccine catch-up schedule, free speakers from the Colorado Vaccine Equity Task Force, COVID-19 vaccine promotions, and help for uninsured employees.

If you would like a copy of the information and resources, contact Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org.

Tri-County Recognizes Workplace Wellness Rock Stars! June 23, 2021

By Michele Haugh, Tri-County Health Department

After having to cancel their 2020 employer recognition event, Tri-County Health Department made up for it with a 2021 Wellness Rock Stars Event on June 23, 2021. The event could be described as an emotional ‘rock n rollercoaster,’ starting and ending on high notes. More than 70 organizations were recognized as Certified Healthy Workplaces, 29 were congratulated for achieving Breastfeeding Friendly Employer status, and another 22 were acknowledged for adopting healthy food and beverage policies.

Although virtual, the event turned out to be a chart-topper that felt more personal than some in-person events. The affair kicked off with Joan Jett’s I Love Rock N Roll, followed by inspiring opening remarks from Heather Baumgartner, Tri-County’s Community Health

Promotion director.

Keynote Speaker, Comedian Nancy Norton, had everyone laughing during her 30-minute gig. Then, attendees were brought to tears by a moving testimony from Maiker Housing Partners’ employee Claudia Trejo – who credits her employer’s supportive lactation policy and practices for her ability to achieve her breastfeeding goals. The mood was lifted again with a fun slide show, containing pictures from participating organizations, set to The Cars Let the Good Times Roll.

Melanie Stewart, human resources manager for Visiting Angels, shared that her favorite element of the Initiative is the monthly coalition meetings, during which local employers learn and share workplace wellness strategies. Following Stewart, Norton led the group in a lively ‘show us your band t-shirt’ healthy dance break (see photo).

Chamber members recognized during the event include Alzheimer’s Association Colorado Chapter, Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, CEDS, Children’s Hospital Colorado, RK, Colorado Rural Health Center, Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer, Community College of Aurora, Fitzsimons Credit Union, Foodbank of the Rockies, Hilton Garden Inn, Project 1.27, SOS Healthcare Staffing, and The Chamber.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce was a founding partner of the Initiative for Workplace Health and Well-being and hosted the first of its five employer coalitions, now known as Work Well 2.0 Health Series.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by:



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professionals did not meet in May 2021. For their June meeting, the YPs attended the June 25 Business After Hours at Bruz Beers, 1675 W. 67th Ave., #100, Denver, CO 80221.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Colorado Air and Space Port & The 5-19th Special Forces Group Thursday, May 27, 2021

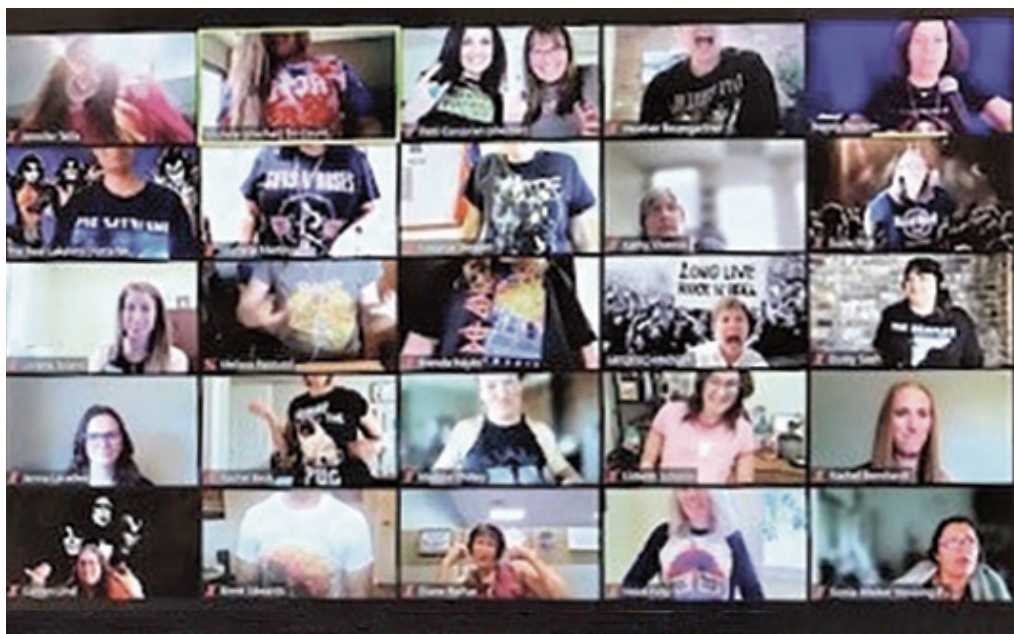


May’s virtual Defense Council featured the Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) and the 5-19th Special Forces Group.

Director of the Colorado Air and Space Port Dave Ruppel showed a map of the growing number of Space Ports in the United States. He talked about Colorado’s robust aerospace industry, that includes more than 500 aerospace companies/suppliers and 190,290 space related jobs, and discussed ongoing activities at the CASP. “There are now three companies located at the CASP – Engines, PD Aerospace, and New Frontier Aerospace,” said Ruppel.

Captain Chris Leanard and Sergeant Major Bruce Schnabel presented on behalf of the 5-19th Special Forces Group (SFG), which is also located at the CASP. Their mission is to organize, equip, train, and validate forces to conduct full spectrum special operations in support of United States Special Operations Command, Geographic Combatant Commanders, American ambassadors, and other governmental agencies. Special Forces Green Berets deploy and execute nine missions: unconventional warfare; foreign internal defense; direct action; counterinsurgency; special reconnaissance; counterterrorism; information operations; counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and security force assistance.

This elite unit has deployed countless times throughout the world and has been critical to the success of various homeland defense and state missions. In addition to the featured presenters, the council received updates from senior military leaders and from the offices of Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, and Congressman Crow. ■



The rock star-themed recognition event encouraged attendees to wear or display their rock and roll best!

23rd Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

So Glad to See Everyone!

The 23rd Annual Leadership Aurora Caddyshack-themed Golf Tournament welcomed 128 eager golf enthusiasts to Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course on the morning of June 17, 2021. Title sponsorship for the tournament was generously provided by Adolfson and Peterson Construction.

There was lively discussion and heartfelt greetings at registration, as golfers relished the opportunity to reconnect in-person with friends and colleagues. They also enjoyed coffee and hearty breakfast burritos, sponsored by the Colorado Association of Realtors, and Hair of the Groundhog That Bit Me Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers, sponsored by AECOM. On the course, Visit

Aurora sponsored the beverage carts traveling around the course to quench the thirst of golfers during the tournament.

For the second year in a row, the Boeing team held their first-place title, with second place going to the New American Financing team.

Proceeds from the tournament provide scholarship funds for the Leadership Aurora program. ■



Title sponsor - Adolfson and Peterson Construction team, left to right: Randy Berner, Jason Heustis, Ryan Anderson, and Alan Antolak.



Hair of the Groundhog That Bit Me Bloody Mary and Screwdriver sponsor - AECOM team, left to right: Dan Keyghobad, Tony Devito, Chad Rabon, and Brett Johnson.



Tournament champions – Boeing team, left to right: Rich Kolberg, Dave Eddy, Ken Christiansen, and Curtis Brown. Eddy also won the “best Caddyshack dressed” award.



Breakfast sponsor - Colorado Association of Realtors team, left to right: Tanner Berkey, David Barber, Tyrone Adams, and Scott Petterson.



Visit Aurora (VA) sponsored the beverage carts on the course, which was very much appreciated! Left to right, Visit Aurora staff and friends enjoying breakfast burritos and coffee before the tournament: Mallory Feeney, VA; Jennifer Evans, Advantage Security and Golf Tournament chair; Randi Morrill, VA; Candice Hobson, VA; Justin Clark, VA; and Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO.

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Aurora YMCA at Wheatlands

6100 S. Kewaunee Way, Aurora, CO 80016

It's official – The YMCA of Metro Denver opened its newest YMCA at Wheatlands in Aurora. Celebrating the May 15 grand opening and ribbon cutting, YMCA CEO Sue Glass (photo above: front row, fourth from left), and VP of Strategic Growth and Membership Kimberly Armitage (with the scissors), were joined by Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Mayor Pro Tem Françoise Bergan, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker, Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Kevin Hougen, and many additional YMCA supporters. The YMCA – which is open to all – helps to change lives by improving health, building character, creating connections, and uplifting communities. The new, state-of-the-art center offers health and wellness and youth programs, including camp and swimming lessons. (05/15/2021)

<https://www.denverymca.org/locations/aurora-ymca-wheatlands> (720) 588-2703.



Left to right, striking the YMCA pose: Aurora Mayor Pro Tem Françoise Bergan, Mayor Mike Coffman, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, and Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Kevin Hougen.

MemberNews

Bye Aerospace Unveils 8-Seat All-electric eFlyer 800

Bye Aerospace has announced an eight-seat all-electric twin turbo-prop class airplane, the eFlyer 800™, in response to growing demands for regional all-electric airplanes with significantly reduced operating costs and increased capacity and utility.

Performance estimates for the eFlyer 800 include up to 320 knot cruise speed, 35,000 feet ceiling and 500 nm range with 45-minute IFR reserves at normal cruise speed of 280 knots. Safety features include two wing-mounted electric motors, each

with dual redundant motor windings, quad-redundant battery packs and a full airplane parachute. Additional potential features include emergency auto-landing system, intelligent algorithm ensuring envelope protection, terrain avoidance and routing for emergency auto-land, and an option for supplemental power solar cells and in-wheel electric taxi.

The airplane accommodates up to seven passengers and one or two pilots. The eFlyer 800 will have only one-fifth the operating costs of traditional twin turboprops and is geared for the air-taxi, air-cargo, regional and charter aircraft markets.

"The eFlyer 800 is the first all-electric

propulsion technology airplane that achieves twin-turboprop performance and safety with no CO2 and extremely low operating costs," said George E. Bye, Bye Aerospace CEO.

Visit Aurora Welcomes Candice Hobson



Candice Hobson

Visit Aurora recently welcomed Candice Hobson as their national sales manager. Hobson will play a significant role in furthering Visit Aurora's mission to strengthen Aurora's reputation as a meetings destination

– by connecting with meeting, convention, and association planners to drive overnight visitors to the city.

"In addition to my local experience at Renaissance Denver Central Park/Holiday Inn Denver East and Crown Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, I've worked in top-tier destinations across the country, including New Orleans and Chicago," said Hobson. "What differentiates Aurora is our growth potential – especially as new, full-service properties come on-line. I'm excited to take on new challenges while meeting the evolving needs of the modern meeting planner."

"Candice's rapport and deep knowledge of the industry makes her the perfect link between our partner properties and national groups preparing to return to the group business market in Aurora," said Visit Aurora President and CEO Bruce Dalton. ■



MemberRenewals

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InnovAge Colorado PACE - Aurora
University of Colorado Medicine

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Air Force Association
American Automation Building Solutions, Inc.
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Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Carm & Gia Metropolitan
Collins Engineers, Inc.
Community Banks of Colorado-Greenwood Village
Community College of Aurora Foundation
Council for a Strong America

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Drury Inn & Suites Hotel - Central Park
Floria Group
Fogg System Company, Inc.
Front Range PharmaLogic
Havana Business Improvement District
HomeSmith Real Estate
Hyatt House Denver Airport
Jane McGrath
Law Offices of Dianne L. Sawaya, LLC
Les Schwab Tire Centers - Tower Rd
New-Ride Enterprises (dba New-Ride Design)
Nothing Bundt Cakes - Southlands
Office Evolution - Southlands
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