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DTC

THE CHAMBER Impact

MAR/APR 2021

The Chamber Welcomes DTC/Greenwood Village Members

Many people and organizations mark the start of a New Year as a time for new beginnings and new opportunities, and 2021 has proved no different for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Foundationally, the mission remains the same, "community first, business always" and The Chamber is excited to further this mission through an agreement formed with The Greenwood Village/DTC Chamber before they dissolved, offering Greenwood Village/DTC Chamber members complimentary membership in The Chamber for 2021.

I would like to share my personal history with these two Chambers, as a point of context for this beneficial agreement.

My first connection to Aurora, was as a resident. I lived in Aurora for 13 years, frequenting many of the Chamber member owned businesses, meanwhile working in the Denver Tech Center. These two communities were my communities, sharing equal importance to me, and providing an essential framework for my life. As I developed further in my career, I found many of my clients to be Chamber members and I became more involved in The Chamber, my company joined as a member, and I saw these two



Rebecca Kelley
Chair

communities continue to form connections in my personal and professional life.

I've often said the strength of The Chamber is in the people and businesses who are a part of it and the connections that are made. Through this agreement Chamber members from both organizations will have the opportunity to connect with more great people and businesses, some of whom, like me are foundationally connected to both communities. Through these connections we can collaborate and partner, share knowledge, expand networks, support business, invest in our community where we live and work, and build a stronger Chamber.

Over the past few months, I have been connecting with our Board Members on a one-on-one basis, discussing involvement in The Chamber, as well as challenges and opportunities, and have been so incredibly thankful for the personal backgrounds shared and the valuable feedback I have received.

A couple of topics continue to stand out for me: service and opportunities for others.

Service

In all my conversations with the Board Members, I heard stories about service, by serving organizations and serving others through volunteering; board or community involvement; and team and organization development; as examples. And, in all my

conversations Board Members extended themselves to further serve by asking, "What more can I do? How can I contribute?"

I have thought about this a lot and while I have not responded to each Board Member with an answer, I realized that by asking these questions, this is how we create opportunity for others - this desire to do more, to contribute.

Opportunities for Others

The other theme I see in some of my conversations is that of opportunity: creating opportunity for others or embracing opportunities for ourselves, through an invitation. A personal invitation goes a long way in expanding connection, extending trust, inspiring others, building confidence, encouraging personal growth, and creating shared experiences.

I invite you to connect with your incredible network of friends, employees, colleagues, clients, and neighbors, and invite them to an event, a committee meeting with The Chamber, a social event, a leadership opportunity, or anything they may not otherwise participate in to experience the impact it has on you, your organization, your network, and your community.

It is my honor to serve as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and to serve its members. I'm excited to see what the opportunity with the DTC/Greenwood Village Chamber members brings to all members, businesses, and community, and for all the ways we can all serve and create opportunity for others. ■

Schedule of Events

23rd Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 17, 2021

7:00am Registration / 8:00am Shotgun Start

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course

23155 E. Heritage Parkway

Aurora, CO 80016

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

66th Annual Chamber Awards Banquet

Friday, Oct 15, 2021

5 - 7 pm Silent Auction / 7 - 9 pm Awards Dinner

DoubleTree by Hotel Denver

3203 Quebec St. (Quebec & MLK Jr. Blvd.)

Denver, CO 80207

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Arts + Marketing - Tools You can Use! Tuesday, January 4, 2021

By Renee Leon, ABC Chair



Stephanie Blake

Stephanie Blake, Chief Engagement Strategist at Blake Communications, gave a informational presentation that included concrete examples of the value of using the arts and creativity in business. She explained the difference between Marketing and Public Relations and the importance of building a strategy for both.

She shared stories about successful partnerships between the arts and businesses, and gave examples of how to use various tools of marketing for the strongest impact. Stephanie highlighted that

organizations that infuse all departments with creativity benefit in growth, market share, and greater overall success!

Art 2C On Havana Street: A Business + Arts Partnership Tuesday, February 2, 2021

By Renee Leon, ABC Chair

Art 2C On Havana Street represents an effective 10-year partnership between The Havana Business Improvement District and Aurora's Art in Public Places programing. Havana BID Executive Director Chance Horiuchi and The City of Aurora's Public Art Coordinator Roberta Bloom shared the goals, evolution, and success of the program and how it has contributed to



Roberta Bloom



Chance Horiuchi



the ongoing transformation of the Havana Corridor while providing opportunities for artists.

According to Horiuchi and Bloom, the businesses love the extra attention that the art brings to the area, while the artists appreciate the exposure and media attention. The artists say that the Art 2C program is well run, supportive, and flexible - making this project an attractive and competitive project.

Bloom and Horiuchi shared many of the challenges and creative solutions experienced by the organizers, the arts, and the businesses, and attendees saw a slide show of the 13 pieces recently installed for 2021-2022. Art 2C can be seen in the brochure, and/or you can print out a map to take a tour of Art 2C.

[continued on page 3]

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD
Rebecca Kelley | *Plante Moran*

CHAIR-ELECT
Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Betsy Oudenhoven |
Community College of Aurora

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED
Joe Barela | *Colorado Department of Labor*

TREASURER
Beth Klein | *FirstBank*

SECRETARY
to be filled

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
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VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES
Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES
Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES
Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

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Tyrone Adams | *Colorado Association of Realtors*
Todd Baker | *Richmond Homes*

Beth Braaten | *Colorado Technical University*
Katie Denman | *Children's Hospital Colorado*

Chris Fasching | *Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig*
Stephanie Glover | *Colorado Access*

John Gustafson | *Kaiser Permanente*
Tom Henley | *Xcel Energy*

Alexandra Hoffman | *HCA Healthcare*
Kristi Kleinholtz | *Mesa Moving and Storage*

Rich Kolberg | *The Boeing Company*
Timothy Kunkleman | *Lumen*

Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes, LLC*
Greg McDonald | *Heritage Christian Center*

Keith Peterson | *UCHealth*
Kelly Phillips-Henry | *Aurora Mental Health Center*

Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mike Coffman | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*

Bill Hoken | *Arapahoe County Commissioner*
Steve O'Dorisio | *Adams County Commissioner*

Lt. Colonel Jamie Pieper | *140th Wing Inspector General*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Community Banks of Colorado*

Donald Sheehan | *City Councilman, City of Centennial*

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Lynn Myers | *Director, Community Relations*

DeeDee Poole | *Director of Business Development and Events*

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Kathryn Lobdell | *Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)*

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Great Western Printing, Inc. | *Newsletter printing*

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

TRANSPORTATION

RTD and DRCOG – Planning for the Future Wednesday, January 6, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair



Debra Johnson

The first Transportation meeting of 2021 on January 6 featured Debra Johnson, the new CEO and General Manager of RTD, and Jacob Riger, the Long-Range Transportation Planning Manager at the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

Johnson joined RTD in November of 2020, bringing 28 years of experience in the transit industry. She shared that her first focus as the leader of RTD is to learn about the organization and its service areas. As of the date of this meeting, she said that she had conducted more than 80 listening sessions to help fulfill that goal. She also acknowledged that RTD is in a state of flux due to the impacts of COVID on ridership and revenues – as well as on operating methods such as required spacing of passengers on buses and trains.

Johnson said that her overall philosophy is to be collaborative and to focus on services that best meet the needs of the community. Her vision is to create a new business model for RTD that is flexible and adaptable, including customizing services to areas, and not using a “cookie cutter” approach.

Recently passed federal legislation will provide COVID-recovery funds but an exact amount and potential uses were uncertain at the time of the meeting.

Responding to a question regarding the R and H Lines in Aurora, Johnson stated that decisions will be based on ridership levels and there may be changes to service levels, but they are not likely to abandon the routes.

Jacob Riger presented on DRCOG’s 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. The Plan is being developed to be in alignment with the Metro Vision Plan adopted by DRCOG in 2017, setting the region’s multimodal

transportation vision and investment frameworks with both fiscal

constraints and air quality constraints. The strategic focus areas in the 2050 Plan include safety, regional transit, active transportation, freight movement, and multimodal mobility. The Plan is being developed with significant public and stakeholder engagement, demonstrating the regional collaboration on transportation planning.

Riger highlighted a few of the Arapahoe County projects included in the latest draft of the Plan: I-25 and Belleview interchange; SH 30, Airport Blvd to Quincy Ave; and the Gun Club Road widening between Quincy and Aurora Parkway.

Plan development began in 2019 and with DRCOG Board adoption of the final plan scheduled for spring of 2021.



CDOT Status Report: Projects and Funding Wednesday, February 3, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The February 3 Transportation meeting provided a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) update by Deputy Director and Director of Policy and Finance Herman Stockinger; Director of Division of Transportation Development Rebecca White; and Region 1 Transportation Director Paul Jesaitis.



Herman Stockinger

Stockinger began the presentation by explaining CDOT’s overall annual budget/expenditures (\$1.9 billion), with notes of impacts from COVID. These impacts have included a drop in gas tax revenue (with less people on the roads), and the elimination of the planned general fund transfers. However, CDOT was fortunate to receive \$134 million of federal COVID-relief funds and is hoping to receive Governor-proposed funds along with potential



additional Federal recovery funds to offset the reductions. The organization has also implemented many operational efficiency savings which provide additional funds for construction projects.



Rebecca White

White discussed the 10-Year CDOT Plan that was developed last year. The plan focuses on taking care of the existing system, using their Asset Management Program with some expansion and integration of transit on key strategic corridors such as I-25 and I-70. She also highlighted the efforts in the Revitalizing Main Streets, Safer Main Streets, and Rural Roads Programs. She added that the CDOT website now includes fact sheets and “report cards” to communicate plans and to increase transparency.



Paul Jesaitis

As the Transportation Director for CDOT Region 1, Jesaitis is responsible for the Metro Denver Area and the I-70 corridor to the Eisenhower Tunnel. He highlighted projects of local interest: an environmental study of I-270 from I-70 to I-25 - looking at reconstruction and an additional lane in each direction; the reconstruction of I-70 between Brighton Blvd. and Chambers Road, with completion planned in 2022; I-25 expansion between Castle Rock and Monument that is approximately one-third complete with construction expected to finish in 2022; repaving of Colfax Ave. between Peoria St. and Sable Blvd. in the summer of 2021; and concrete panel replacements on Parker Rd. between Arapahoe Rd. and E-470, to prevent the heaving which often results in emergency lane closures (also during summer of 2021).

[continued on page 4]

StaffSpotlight



Lynn Myers

Lynn Myers, director of Community Relations with The Aurora Chamber of Commerce, has been awarded the Workforce Ambassador Award from Rocky Mountain Workforce. Myers currently serves as the co-chair of the Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Development Board and has been a strong advocate and ambassador for the workforce development system throughout the nation for nearly

two decades. She served on the Arapahoe Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) from 2000-2006, then as a senior vice president at the Denver South Economic Development Partnership. At Denver South, and now at The Chamber, Myers works to establish strong working partnerships between workforce development and regional economic developers, chambers, and other business groups. ■

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

Virtual Business

Legislative Preview

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Chamber members were invited to attend the Colorado Competitive Council (C3) and the Denver Metro Chamber's Virtual Business Legislative Preview on Tuesday, January 12. This was in lieu of The Chamber's January 7 Government Affairs meeting.

Attendees heard from the Colorado General Assembly leaders, with each party discussing their plans, priorities, and predictions for the year - with a focus on policies impacting the business community. Legislators included: Sen. Kerry Donovan, Senate president pro tempore; Rep. Alec Garnett, House speaker-elect; Sen. Paul Lundeen, Senate minority whip; and Rep. Hugh McKean, House minority leader.

"The defining issue for the 2021 session is going to be how the legislature prioritizes recovery in this unique economic downturn that we find ourselves in," Rep. Garnett said.



"This downturn is unlike anything that we have faced before. It has had disproportional impacts on different sectors of our marketplace and different communities across the state."

Leaders discussed issues including transportation, healthcare, and education - with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at the forefront of the discussions. Input from stakeholders, experts, and the business community will be essential to tackling the complex issues Colorado faces.

With the unusual nature of the upcoming sessions - Legislators convened briefly in January and will return in February for the 120-day lawmaking term.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

The Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Executive Committee is dedicated to assisting members with "A Better Life, A Better Living." In 2021, the committee will explore mentorship, alliances, workforce, housing, social justice, public health (physical and mental), and engaging with policymakers.

The D&I Council meets bi-monthly on the second Friday, 9 - 10:30 am, and shares resources the months without meetings. Meetings are April 9, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 8 and Dec. 10. Resources will be emailed in

March, May, July, September, and November.

If you are not part of the D&I Council and would like to receive resources, please contact deedee.poole@aurorachamber.org

Diversity and Inclusion Housing Resources

Friday, February 12, 2021



Brian Arnold

Brian Arnold, Diversity & Inclusion Council chair and program director with Ready to Work, and Mitch Myers, broker/owner of Magic Realty Inc., shared their collective expertise on the housing crisis and resources to assist our community during these

trying times and beyond.

Arnold discussed family stability and the outcome of our children being raised in an unstable environment. He went on to mention the historical barriers of housing for people of color, and that The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Division of Housing (DOH) is working on ways to help people of color obtain affordable housing and bring equality to the access of housing.

Mitch Myers discussed real estate, and how to find the most affordable housing. He offered that there are various types of housing down payment assistance programs, different types of loans with zero down payment, and there is even an option of receiving a Gift Letter from a family member. Myers went on to discuss the different qualifications for housing and wealth building through real estate.



Mitch Myers

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' DOH is creating housing opportunities for Coloradans who face the greatest challenges to accessing affordable, safe, and secure homes. Some ways they are doing this includes: Funding for operating and rental subsidies; funding to acquire, rehabilitate and construct affordable housing; and playing a regulatory role as a building department. So far, they have funded 1,000+ Project-Based units in the last five years. DOH annually serves 38,000+ households. They have also created 3,562 new affordable housing opportunities last year, and report that more than 83 percent of vouchers serve people with disabilities.

For housing assistance resources, contact: Emergency Rental & Mortgage Assistance or Aurora Affordable Housing Gap Financing

The Diversity and Inclusion Council
is sponsored by



Eastern Metro Legislators Discuss Priorities

Thursday, February 4, 2021

The February 2021 Government Affairs meeting featured eight Eastern Metro State Legislators: Sen. Jeff Bridges (SD-26); Sen. Kevin Priola (SD-25); Rep. Mark Baisley (HD-39); Rep. Rod Bockenfeld (HD-56); Rep. Iman Jodeh (HD-41); Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet (HD-30); Rep. Naquetta Ricks (HD-40); and Rep. Mike Weissman (HD-36).

Each legislator discussed the geographics of their districts and their

legislative priorities and proposed bills. The virtual format was in lieu of the standard legislative breakfast that the Chamber conducts each January. More than 80 Chamber members attended the meeting.

The Chamber Public Issues Committee is
sponsored by



Sen. Jeff Bridges



Sen. Kevin Priola



Rep. Mark Baisley



Rep. Rod Bockenfeld



Rep. Iman Jodeh



Rep. Dafna
Michaelson Jenet



Rep. Naquetta Ricks



Rep. Mike Weissman

[continued on page 5]

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Adjusting to Change: How to Pivot in Uncertainty

Tuesday, January 26, 2021



Lois Melkonian

Lois Melkonian, a professional executive and life coach, offered six steps on how to adapt to change. Using strategies based in science, psychology, spirituality, and conversations, she provided a variety of tools to use when facing an uncertain situation or difficult challenge.

The six steps are:

1. Take charge and do the basics – Determine what is in your control and what is out of your control. You cannot control what other people say or do; however, you can control your reaction and response.
2. Reframe your perspective, by simply taking things for face value and not personally.
3. Curb your ruin – If you get stuck thinking about something, ask yourself: is it true; did this really happen; how do you feel when you think about that thought; and who would you be without that thought? Then, schedule a time to worry on your calendar, and do something for someone else.
4. Ask for a mutually beneficial conversation – It is important for you to stress your point of view, but it is also important to listen to and hear the other person's point of view.
5. Accept that things are uncertain – You can manage your attitude, actions, integrity, and work ethic. Yes, you are in control of these things.
6. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Or worded another way, think about treating others as you would like to be treated.

Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson on the Current State of the County

Tuesday, February 23, 2021



Commissioner
Nancy Jackson

Sworn in January 2019, Nancy Jackson is serving her third term as Commissioner, representing District 4, which includes the unincorporated area in north Arapahoe County and portions of the City of Aurora.

During the presentation, Commissioner Jackson reviewed the outlook on expectations for 2021, and offered a better understanding of what businesses should be aware of to help them

get through these trying times. Commissioner Jackson provided several business and community resources, and discussed areas of interest including the Gallagher Amendment, COVID Relief, Federal CARES Act, COVID testing and vaccinations, and assistance through AD Works! and Tri-County Health Department.

Commissioner Jackson noted that although Arapahoe County is currently in level yellow in the COVID metrics of cases and hospitalizations, it is anticipated that soon the county will be in the blue zone, which would allow restaurants, gyms, movie theatres, etc. to open to more customers.

However, she noted, that at the time of her presentation, "we are experiencing a slight increase in incidents, so it is important that everyone keep washing hands, masking, and keeping safe distances."

Commissioner Jackson went on to say that, "We don't know how many vaccines we will receive from suppliers each week, or how many will be distributed to a particular site. Still, the State has opened opportunities for more and more people to be eligible for the vaccine, and 15 percent of Arapahoe County has been vaccinated."

For Arapahoe County COVID information, contact Call Tri-County Health Department at 303-220-9200 or email callcenter@tchd.org. For additional information and resources, go to: www.arapahoe.gov, or www.adworks.org for jobseekers. You can also contact Commissioner Jackson at Njackson@ArapahoeGov.com.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

The Negative Impacts of Unconscious Bias

Thursday, January 14, 2021

By Patti Corcoran, Tri-County Health Department



Patti Corcoran

Addressing the Negative Impacts of Unconscious Bias was the subject of the January 14, 2021 Work Well 2.0 Health Series. Patti Corcoran, workplace policy specialists with Tri-County Health Department led the discussion by talking about how unconscious biases influence our actions, due to a combination of life experiences and the "shortcuts" our brains take to help us make decisions.

Corcoran shared how these biases can lead us to make important decisions – such as hiring – based on incorrect or irrelevant information that we are not even aware of. These biases can limit profitability, lower employee morale and loyalty, and constrain innovation. So, Corcoran said, "that once we realize how unconscious bias happens, we are empowered to make necessary changes to create a more

equitable business culture."

Corcoran is a corporate wellness professional with experience developing and implementing workplace wellness policies and programs.

Thriving Cultures: Reimagining Well-Being in Colorado

Thursday, February 11, 2021



For February, Health Series members were invited to attend the Feb. 11 American Heart Association Digital Workplace Health Symposium online, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The symposium covered a variety of topics including Ways to Enhance Your Employee Experience in 2021; From Suits to Pajama Pants: Spotting and Responding to Employees' Mental Health Needs in the Virtual Workplace; Psychologically Health Workforce: Big Idea to Real Application; and Sparking Change: A Pathway to Inspired and Creative Leadership.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

In Touch with Mental Health

Wednesday, January 27, 2021



Brian Mears

The Chamber's Young Professionals kicked off the New Year with a focus on mental health.

Brian Mears, CEO of Alleviant Healthcare presented about mental health and the importance of treating mental illness. Mears said that his organization's focus is "to get people back

to good health - for good."

A major healthcare challenge in the U.S. is prescription drug dependency – a reliance on these drugs that are not actually treating the illness. Many treatments used for mental health issues are only suppressing the symptoms, as opposed to resolving the issues. Alleviant Healthcare is committed to resolving the problem. They are looking at alternative treatments to completely remove mental health issues that previously required patients to return on a regular basis or refill prescriptions constantly.

As we move into 2021 it's exciting to think about be exciting to see mental health illnesses be something that we can help heal forever!

[continued on page 6]



How to Steal Your Boss' Job

Wednesday, February 18, 2020



Bruce Dalton



Betsy Oudenhoven



Suzanne Pitrusu

The Aurora Young Professionals met for another Business Success Series (BSS) in February, featuring three members of the Chamber's Board of Directors: CEO of Visit Aurora Bruce Dalton; President of Community College Betsy Oudenhoven; and VP/Senior Relationship Manager with Community Banks of Colorado Suzanne Pitrusu.

While the meeting was titled "How to Steal Your Boss' Job," the three executives talked mostly about how they reached their current positions. They discussed how they each became successful and offered personal examples of how to overcome and learn from failures. They also emphasized the importance of being

respectful of others – both those who report to you and those you report to.

The discussion offered real-world examples of how to be a leader and provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

The BSS was created as an opportunity for Young Professionals to network and to hear from successful professionals.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Military Healthcare

Thursday, December 17, 2021

The final Defense Council of 2020 featured a panel of experts in military healthcare. Members of the panel included Michael Kilmer, director of the Veteran Administration's Eastern Colorado Healthcare System (ECHCS); Don Brown, business operations specialist with the Defense Health Agency



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Eastern Colorado Health Care System

(DHA); Robert Blythewood, director of the Regional Support Office with Health Net Federal Services (HFNS); and Colonel Shannon Phares, commander of the 460th Medical Group, Buckley Air Force Base.

Topics discussed included how the ECHCS responded to COVID by relocating staff, rapidly transitioning to tele-health, and their innovative approaches to nursing care delivery. Brown discussed the transition of military hospitals to DHA and how DHA's integrated military and civilian health care delivery supports readiness and peacetime health care delivery. Blythewood provided an overview of HFNS' responsibility in the TRICARE West Region for 2.9 million beneficiaries across 21 states. Colonel Phares covered the mission of the 460th Medical Group and highlighted some recent successes such as opening the first dental clinic since WWII and moving the mental health clinic onto base, for the first time.

The Council also received unit updates and were informed by Buckley Garrison Commander Colonel Pepper that this would be his last Defense Council meeting as he is moving to Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs. Colonel Pepper expressed his gratitude for the tremendous support provided by the Defense Council and the Aurora community. Defense Council Chair Stephen Gourley wished Colonel Pepper the best in his new assignment and thanked him for his superb leadership and solid partnership with the council and community.

Propaganda and Extremism Today

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

More than 300 Defense Council and community members attended the CELL Virtual 365 Event, which examined the effects of propaganda on society, both historically and today.

Presenters discussed how violent extremists use propaganda to recruit and radicalize our country, and taught us ways to identify and resist extremist propaganda. Speakers included former white supremacist Christian Picciolini, and Holocaust educator Rudi Florian.

American Automation Building Solutions, Inc. and RTL Networks, Inc., were co-sponsors of this event.



Aerospace Industry Panel

Thursday, February 25, 2021

February's meeting featured a panel of Aerospace Industry Experts: Brigadier General (retired) Ron Huntley, senior director for Multi-Domain Solutions at Perspecta; Stacy Kubicek, vice president and general manager at Lockheed Martin Space; Colonel (retired) Dan Wright, solutions architecture chief at SAIC; Cheri Reed, president of Creed Strategies; and Master Chief Petty Officer (retired) Danny Moore, president & owner of DeNOVO Solutions and Thornberry Consulting. The panel was moderated by Edgar Johansson, manager of Strategic Initiatives at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

Panel members provided their insights regarding the defense budget and how it might be impacted by the new administration. Additional discussion centered around technology, employment, and workforce education and skills. Panel members shared an optimistic view of the future of Aerospace nationally and in the State of Colorado. In addition to insight and information from the panel, Defense Council members received organizational updates from senior military leaders at Buckley AFB and legislative updates from the offices of Senator Bennet and Congressman Crow. ■



RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings mean business: **180 Jobs**

Bellico Credit Union

18241 Green Valley Ranch Blvd., Denver, CO 80249

Bellico Credit Union held a ribbon cutting for its newest branch in Denver's Green Valley Ranch - bringing the number of branch locations in the Denver metro area to 25, and one in Grand Junction. Left to right: Tim Agnew, manager, Administrative Services, Bellco; Doug Kearby, VP Business Technology and Administration, Bellco; Donna Garnett, board president, Children's Farms of America; John Rivera, VP and chief retail Officer, Bellco; Steven Angelier, board chair, Bellco (holding scissors); two Bellco Green Valley Branch employees; Eric White, director, Administrative Services, Bellco; and Kevin Hougen, president and CEO, Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The new stand-alone branch offers convenient drive-thru access and self-service banking options with the Express Teller Machine and 24-Hour ATM service. It also provides a full-service lobby and drive-up teller.



Now in its 85th year, Bellco is continuing to support the health and wellness of its members and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic by encouraging online and mobile banking, offering drive-up service and scheduling video and phone consultations for members who wish to speak with a Bellco financial specialist from the comfort of their home.

HealthONE Centennial Hospital

A Campus of
The Medical Center of Aurora



Centennial Hospital

14200 E. Arapahoe Rd., Centennial, CO 80112

On March 1, 2021 HealthONE opened Centennial Hospital at the site of the Centennial Medical Plaza. Left to right: Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, Chief Executive Officer for HCA Healthcare/HealthONE's The Medical Center of Aurora Ryan Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer at TMCA/Centennial Medical Plaza Tyler Hood, and President and CEO of HealthONE and HCA's Continental Division Sylvia Young, cut the ribbon.

The new hospital, which is part of The Medical Center of Aurora HealthONE, will have 16 medical/surgical beds and four critical care beds, and will provide emergency and surgical procedures on a smaller scale than the larger hospital.

The hospital will not only be able to provide more services to the Centennial community, but it will also bring jobs and education as well. Many procedures will utilize robotics and the latest technology to provide the best care possible to our community. (02/18/2021) www.healthonecares.com (303) 699-3000.

Long Law Group, LLC.

44 Cook St. Ste. 255, Denver, CO 80206

Owner Stephanie Long, Partner Peter McFarland, and Karson Mayer cut the ribbon for Long Law Group, an established law firm specializing in business and tax expertise. Long Law Group works with organizations to provide specialty services in addition to tax returns and bookkeeping. Their goal is to work with clients to prepare financial statements, protect assets, maintain compliance, write contracts, obtain real estate, and more. (01/20/2021) www.longlg.com (720) 922-1120.



BioLife Plasma Services

BioLife Plasma Services

14030 E. Mississippi Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

BioLife Plasma Services Center Manager Tyler VanSickle and his staff cut the ribbon for the opening of their new plasma donation center in Aurora, Colorado. The full-service plasma donation center allows anyone with healthy blood to donate and their services include everything from storage to testing, and distribution of donations.

With countless people affected by illnesses that can be helped or treated with plasma, this is a welcome addition to the community. Plasma is one of the most-needed medical resources and BioLife is actively working to make it readily available. (01/21/2021) www.biolifeplasma.com (303) 214-0232.



MemberNews

Arapahoe & Adams Counties Welcome New Commissioners



Commissioner
Carrie Warren-Gully



Commissioner
Lynn Baca

Arapahoe County held a virtual swearing-in on January 11, 2021. Carrie Warren-Gully was sworn into office as Commissioner for District 1, representing Littleton, Englewood, Sheridan, Columbine Valley, Bow Mar, Cherry Hills Village, and western Centennial. Commissioner Warren Gully grew up in Englewood. She most recently served as a member of the Littleton School Board from 2013-2020 and was president of the Colorado Association of School Boards in 2018.

Commissioner Jeff Baker was sworn in for his second term representing District 3, and Commissioner Bill Holen was sworn in for his third and final term representing District 5. Board of County Commissioner officers for 2021 are: Chair Nancy Jackson; Chair Pro Tem Carrie Warren-Gully, and Finance Officer Jeff Baker.

Adams County held a virtual inaugural event on January 12, 2021, during which Lynn Baca was sworn into office as Commissioner for District 5, representing Brighton. She is a second-generation Adams County resident and the first Latina Asian-Pacific Islander to be elected Commissioner. She most recently served two terms on the Brighton City Council and held leadership positions with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

Commissioner Eva Henry, representing District 1 and

Commissioner Chaz Tedesco, representing District 2, were each sworn in for their third and final terms.

Board of County Commissioner Officers for 2021 are Chair Eva Henry and Vice Chair Chaz Tedesco. The event also included a tribute to retiring Commissioner Mary Hodge.

Town Center at Aurora has a New Team and New Goals

Town Center at Aurora recently hired Aurora/Denver native Joel M. Boyd as the general manager. Boyd and the Town Center team, including Operations Director Scott Cartwright, and Marketing Director Alexis Watts, are leading the future of the Center, while collaborating with the community and tenants to execute innovative on-property events and activations. The team also oversees capital improvement plans for the facility, marketing, sponsorships, and managing the growing business development at the Center.

"We are changing Town Center at Aurora with this team - one community member at a time," said Boyd. "Our goal is to ensure that our Center provides the best experience for our guests. Our team is committed to business readiness, community collaboration, safety, and being a positive light in our diverse city."



Town Center at Aurora team: Front row, left to right: Michelle Riehle, office administrator; Abbey Kresser, leasing manager; Gabe Villalobos, housekeeping manager; Andrea Ramirez, marketing coordinator. Back row, left to right: Alexis Watts, marketing director; Josh Winger, director of security; Scott Cartwright, operations director; Joel Boyd, general manager.

eFlyer 2 Serial #001 Assembly Underway



"Assembly of the fuselage for Serial #001 of Bye Aerospace's two-seat all-electric eFlyer 2 is now underway," announced CEO of Bye Aerospace George E. Bye on March 1, 2021.

Bye Aerospace is contracted with Composites Universal Group (CUG) to begin assembly of the production eFlyer 2 fuselage, the first major component being assembled. CUG will also assemble the Toray carbon composite wings for the production eFlyer 2 aircraft.

In addition, Bye also reports that most System Specific Certification Plans (SSCPs) are nearing completion and in final approval coordination with the FAA. "Even with the challenges presented to us by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, our team remains laser focused on collaboration efforts with the FAA on the eFlyer 2's certification program," he said.

Bye Aerospace has a backlog of 717 purchase deposit agreements for eFlyer 2, four-seat eFlyer 4 and other Bye Aerospace all-electric aircraft. They are also in the process of closing several new agreements and expect to make additional market announcements soon.

Bye Aerospace's current and future families of aircraft feature engineering, research and electric aircraft solutions designed to specifically address compelling market needs. Benefits include five-fold lower operating costs, no CO2 emissions, and decreased noise. Bye Aerospace estimates the eFlyer will eventually eliminate the release of millions of metric tons of CO2 each year as its deliveries begin and the general aviation fleet is replaced. ■

MembersSpotlight



Sunny Banka

Sunny Banka, owner of Sunny Homes & Associates, Inc., was recently awarded the National Association of REALTORS® Emeritus Award, an honor awarded to realtors who have had at least 40 years of consecutive membership in the association. Banka has had a positive impact on committees at the national level - contributing her wisdom and genuine enthusiasm to the betterment of the real estate industry and our community. In addition, Banka's commitment to volunteerism is an example to hold high in any industry. ■



Ann Bagwell

Ann Bagwell, senior mortgage loan officer with BOK Financial Mortgage, was recently awarded the Aurora Association of REALTORS® Lifetime Achievement Award for her unwavering commitment and loyalty to the organization for more than 40 years. Bagwell has spearheaded many events and programs that enrich the experience of realtors and industry partners alike, and her wealth of knowledge and spirit of community in Aurora creates a positive environment for all who work with her. ■

Congratulations to the Longest and Best Class Ever!*

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2020 – that began their journey in Breckenridge, CO in September 2019, held a virtual graduation on the evening of Friday, February 26, 2021.

It was a long journey for this class. In March of 2020, with 3 sessions remaining

(Military, Police, and Fire), the Leadership Aurora program – like pretty much everything else – came to a screeching halt because of COVID.

Fortunately, the class was able to meet in April of 2020 for a virtual military panel with

Buckley AFB senior leaders and enlisted members. In September, they celebrated at an outdoor gathering at the Botanic Gardens and were able to have a half-day session in October with the Aurora Police Department.

This determined class continued to stay connected and even completed their class project of refurbishing the basement of the Village Exchange Center, a non-profit organization serving immigrants and refugees in the Aurora/Denver metro area. They also began a podcast, Impact Aurora, to showcase the Leadership Aurora program and to highlight graduates and leaders in the community. ■

**A double designation that we sincerely hope no class ever challenges!*



Leadership Aurora Class of 2020 at their Retreat in September 2019.



MemberRenewals

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE RENEWALS

Adams County Board of Commissioners
Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA)
Children's Hospital Colorado
City of Aurora - City Management
City of Centennial
Comcast
Community College of Aurora
Corporex Colorado, LLC
Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport
Lightshade
Majestic Realty Co.
Michael Baker Corporation
Parker Adventist Hospital
Pinnacle Assurance
RTL Networks, Inc.
Southlands
Stanley Marketplace
The Aurora Highlands
The Green Solution
University of Colorado Medicine
Wagner Equipment Co.
Xcel Energy

RENEWALS

225 Self Storage
Act IV
Action Appliance, Inc.
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.
Artistic Apparel, Graphics & Signs
Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.
Aurora Housing Authority

Aurora Rotary Club
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Carm & Gia Metropolitan
Centennial Airport/Arapahoe County Public
Cold Stone Creamery
Colorado Early Colleges Aurora
CommonGround Golf Course
Community College of Aurora - Bookstore
Community Housing Partners
Community Living Alternatives, Inc.
Cops Fighting Cancer
Country Financial
Craig Wagner Trial Law
DeNOVO Solutions, LLC
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North
Empower Community High School
Enernet Design
First Command Financial Planning
Fitzsimons Innovation Community
Freund & Company
Good Chemistry
Great Western Printing
Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton
Home Smith Real Estate
Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center
Inspire Corporation
Karnopp, Martha
LeaderQuest Denver, An ACI Learning Company
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
Lowry Conference Center
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Mile High Harley-Davidson
National Technology Transfer Inc.

Nelnet
Office Evolution - Southlands
PhotoSmith Colorado
Pradia Collaborative Solutions, Corp.
RE/MAX Professionals, DTC - David J. Barber
Shalom Park
Special Olympics Colorado
Stratus Building Solutions
STRIDE Community Health Center
The Salvation Army
UCHealth ER - Commerce City
Waste Connections
Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum
Zvonek Consulting LLC.

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Branch & Barrel
Evolve Planning & Insurance
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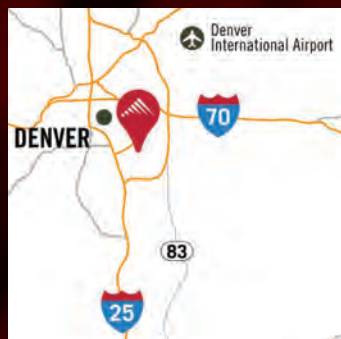
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