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THE CHAMBER

Impact

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2017

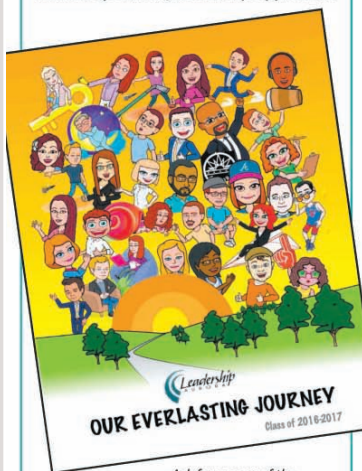


The Chamber is accepting applications for the Leadership Aurora Class of 2017-2018

Deadline: July 15

Online Application:

<http://www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application>



Ask for a copy of the Leadership Aurora Class of 2016-2017 Yearbook.

Leadership Aurora is a 10-month community engagement program designed to develop an awareness of the Aurora community, create a network of informed leaders, and encourage greater involvement in the community.

Yearbook designed by Six & Six, Inc.

In DC for the Defense Communities National Summit

Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen and incoming Defense Council Chair Ron Cole represented The Chamber and Defense Council at the Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, D.C., June 19-26, 2017.

More than 600 from 42 states attended the Summit to take advantage of 40 presentations by senior experts on key issues for defense communities like Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), quality of life, joint planning, partnerships and how to effectively interact with Congressional representatives. The level of interest was reflected by the attendance of two governors, two Lt-Governors, six Congress members, Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, Senior Commanders from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines, and chairmen of two national think tanks. In addition to Hougen and Cole, Colorado was represented by State Aerospace Advocate Jay Lindell, and members of Colorado Springs' Military Affairs Council.

A couple of takeaways from the Summit:

- BRAC does not seem to be an issue before 2020/2021 (if then)



Left to right: Kevin Hougen, Aurora Chamber President and CEO; Major General (retired) Jay Lindell, Governors Aerospace Office; Greg Dorman, Colorado National Guard; Keith Klaehn, Chair, Colorado Springs MAC; and Ron Cole, incoming Chair of the Aurora Defense Council.

- The three driving priorities for our military families moving into a community are: education for their children; reasonable housing costs; and jobs for their spouses. ■

Chamber Helps Secure \$2 Billion in Federal Research Funding

As a member of the Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition, The Chamber has been a strong advocate for National Institute of Health Funding for medical research, and is pleased with the outcome of the omnibus spending deal reached for FY 2017 which included, among other things, a \$2B increase in NIH funding, \$8.7M increase to the National Science Foundation, and \$41.8M to the Department

of Energy's Office of Science. The Anschutz Medical Campus is slated to receive \$481 of the \$2 billion NIH funding.

At the end of May 2017, the Trump Administration's 2018 budget plan proposed significant cuts to NIH and other key research accounts, and The Chamber is dedicated to supporting continued medical, science, and energy research funding. ■

2017 AFRL honors Military Members of the Year



Back row, L to R - SSgt Krystal Eisenhaure, Diane Crandall (Cardenas Award), PO1 Toby Galt, LCpl Matthew Nahmenssen, Sgt Ray Gregory, and Congressman Mike Coffman. Front row, L to R - MS Ian McDonald (Canada), A1C Christopher Van Haasl, PO3 Marley Schafer, TSgt Cassidy Wong, Sgt Michael Hamilton, and Sgt Chole Olson.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Defense Council held its 41st Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on May 5, 2017, to honor the military serving in the Metro area. The Colorado Technical University-sponsored event includes business, professional, and community leaders, honoring 10 military members representing each of the branches of service and their Reserve and Guard components, as well as one civilian from the community.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing the members of the Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard—throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said AFRL Luncheon Chair Marissa Banker with Colorado Technical University. "They make such a significant contribution to our community and to our nation."

This year's keynote speaker was Lt. Gen (retired) Mike Hamel, former Commander, 14th Air Force and Space and Missile Center. ■

THE CHAMBER
AURORA • COLORADO

facebook



Suzanne Pitrusu
Board Chair

Chair's Letter

It's exciting to write my first Chairman's letter to the dedicated members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, our staff and Board of Directors.

Our committee structure is set up to work with the surrounding communities, because we are all faced with a range of unique challenges and opportunities. However, no matter the issues, The Chamber is ready to work with the business community and local, state, and federal partners.

With that comes the question of **"What is your WHY?"**

Why do people move into Colorado at such an amazing speed today? It's because of the opportunities we have to work, raise a family, and live in this beautiful part of the country.

For example, when our men and women in uniform complete their military service, they leave their bases and choose new homes across the street or across the country. Within minutes, they go from service members to service veterans. But their commitment to our nation never weakens, and our country and communities never waver in their dedication to support them, no matter what lies ahead. That is **why** the Chamber and our programs are centered on service to the community, and why our commitment to them will never weaken.

Why do people join the Aurora Chamber of Commerce? The Chamber of Commerce serves nearly 1,000 members with more than 128,000 employees, by connecting them with the resources and people needed for growing their business and solving problems. The Chamber also works as a community of businesses, serving as a primary connector between business and community interests.

Why am I so excited, and dedicated to our business community? My family is the number one reason **why** I work so hard to leave an enduring footprint of outstanding results and goodwill.

It's **why** you will continue to see The Chamber work on transportation solutions, school bond elections that strengthen our schools and communities, the best healthcare in the country for our citizens, and well-paying jobs. That's **why**, I'm so excited to work with you today and **why** the 2017-2018 year as your Chair has so much promise for your families and their future.

It should be mentioned that I follow a group of outstanding leaders who previously served as Chair: Ryan Simpson, Jason Altshuler, David Patterson, and Jeff Thompson. Over the years, I've learned a lot watching each of them bring their **WHY** to the forefront of The Chamber.

I have some big shoes to fill but I also have an amazing TEAM of leaders that I have the privilege to work with, as we look to the future of The Chamber. I'm excited for the year ahead and to learn about your **WHY!**

ChamberBoard

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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.

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!

Ribbon cuttings mean business:
200 new jobs

The Suites at Fitzsimons

13525 E. 23rd Ave. Aurora, CO 80045

The Suites at Fitzsimons is a new luxury rehabilitation facility serving those exiting the hospital. **The Suites** are conveniently located east of the Anschutz Medical Campus. The Suites promote healing, well-being, and recovery in a resort style center, and offers comprehensive specialties including: post orthopedic care; cardiac care; pulmonary disease; stroke recovery; and wound care. **The Suites at Fitzsimons** launched their facility with Executive Director Carly Olsen, Dr. Jeffrey Wallace, Chamber Vice President Rene Simard, Chamber Ambassadors and Staff. (5/10/17) www.thesuiteshc.com/index.php/fitzsimons/ (303) 344-8282



Insight Health Center

3000 S. Jamaica Ct. #210 Aurora, CO 80014

Insight Health Center is a holistic health center, currently offering acupuncture, massage, and herbal medicine, with rental opportunities for a massage therapist, psychotherapist, nutritionist, chiropractor, and other qualified practitioners. The grand opening was celebrated with **Insight Health Center** Owner Dana Rogers, Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen, Centennial City Council Member CJ Whalen, Chamber Board Members Chad Nielson and Courtney Morehouse, and Chamber staff. (6/9/17) www.insighthealthcenter.com/ (720) 242-8272



Fresenius Kidney Care

590 N. Laredo St. Aurora, CO 80011

Fresenius Kidney Care broke ground with Mayor Steve Hogan; Medical Director ESRD Program Michael Chonchol, MD; Director of Operations Bob Chambers; Director of Market Development Jennie Chaves; and Chamber Ambassadors and Staff.

Fresenius Kidney Care Clinic treats patients with kidney failure and other chronic diseases through dialysis and hemodialysis treatments. The new location will have 16 dialysis treatment stations and one isolation room, a conference room, and doctor office/exam rooms – and is the first of its kind in the Aurora area. (6.20.17) <https://fmcna.com/>

MemberNews

Centennial Named 2017 Great Workplace Award Winner

The **City of Centennial** has received the 2017 Gallup Great Workplace Award, which recognizes organizations for their extraordinary ability to create engaged workplace cultures that drive business outcomes.



The **City of Centennial** joins a prestigious group of organizations that average 14 engaged employees for every one actively disengaged employee, which is nearly seven times the rate in the U.S. and more than 15 times the rate for workforces globally.

Acting City Manager Elisha Thomas said, "I'm proud and honored to work with such a talented group of employees. This award represents their hard work and ongoing contributions to the **City of Centennial** by delivering superior, first of class service."

Merrick Wins National Honor for HPPS Project

Merrick & Company was recognized at the American Council of Engineering Companies

(ACEC) annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) gala in Washington, D.C. in April 2017.

Merrick received a National Honor Award in the Energy category for the hydrothermal processing pilot system (HPPS) project, *Oil in Hours, Not Millions of Years*.

The HPPS is an innovation that converts something as common as algae into transportation fuel. The system was designed using algae as the biomass feedstock, but almost any biosolid mixed in a slurry can be used. The use of biomass-produced fuel causes no net increase in greenhouse gases and produces clear, sterile water as a byproduct.

Johnny Choate is Warden of the Year

Johnny Choate has been named 2016 Warden of the Year for **The GEO Group**.

Warden Choate is credited with being the driver of several key achievements during 2016, including an unexpected surge in population to accommodate an emergent ICE



Johnny Choate

need. Collectively, his accomplishments established Choate as Warden of the Year.

Choate is described as a self-starter who is engaged, focused and determined. His reputation is accentuated by his "hands on" approach — delivering excellent customer service, community relations, staff/detainee/public-safety, and sound operations. He is also involved in the community, and joins the Aurora Chamber Board of Directors June 1, 2017.

Aurora Sister Cities is Best Overall

Aurora Sister Cities International has won the 2017 Sister Cities International Best Overall Award for cities with a population between 300,001 and 500,000. The award recognizes outstanding exchange work done by to advance the goals and mission of the sister cities movement. Award winners will be recognized July 15 at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Annual Awards ceremony during the Sister Cities International 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA. ■



An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, ENERGY, AND EDUCATION

Summing up the 2016-2017 Legislative Session and Looking Ahead

June 1, 2017

At the June 1 Government Affairs meeting, Mayor Hogan reported on City Council upcoming elections, and talked about the recent Sister City trip to Korea; Rhonda Fields, SD 29, reported that 15 of her 22 bills passed; Mike Weissman, HD 36, shared that six of his nine bills also passed; and APS Superintendent Rico Munn discussed school board elections and gave a presentation on APS Public-Public Partnerships.



Colorado State Capitol

Michael Steppat with Axiom Strategies, concluded the meeting by reviewing major topics of discussion in the Legislature: Construction Defect; Hospital Provider Fee; and Transportation.

There is no Government Affairs, Education, and Energy meeting in July.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Learning About the LGBTQ+ Community in Aurora

May 12, 2017

Did you know there are over 40,000 LGBTQ+ residents living in Aurora, CO? At the May meeting, Dustin Krier, vice president of Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) Denver talked about demographics and important Marketing Trends that can help businesses be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community.

Dustin talked about the variety of ways one can identify themselves, and shared that there are more than 80 flags that represent the LGBTQ+ community. Attendees learned what this demographic spends most of their money on, and the values that are most important to them - as a community. Dustin also discussed topics including health risks, transgender population, travel preference, and community media consumption.

Helping to Shape the Future of Aurora

June 9, 2017

In June, Diversity and Inclusion Council hosted Aurora Places for a visioning session. The main topics included Housing, Sustainable Economy, Environmental Sustainability, Diversity & Equity, Community Health, Access & Mobility, and Sense

of Place/Image Identity. Participant groups were asked to place their 'five top additions to the City of Aurora' on large maps that were handed out.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

It's Wine-thirty in Parker

May 19, 2017

The May Young Professionals meeting was moved from May 17 to May 19, in order to partner with the Parker Chamber of Commerce for a joint Chamber Networking Wine Walk in Parker. There were more than 50 Aurora Chamber members registered for the occasion.

Participants could explore 18 locations, sampling wine and exploring the businesses - maybe starting out at the Florist with a Pinot Noir, then off to a canvas painting shop to try a Shiraz - tasting, shopping, and meeting great people along the way.

Touring Stanley Marketplace with BFA

June 6, 2017

The June 21 Young Professionals meeting was moved to June 6, for a tour of Stanley Marketplace with the Business for the Arts group. (See BFA - June 6)

The Young Professionals also partnered with the Colorado Restaurant Association to support our member restaurants for the Tailgate Rockies game on June 20, 2017.

No YP events or meeting in July, in order to plan for the upcoming 'YP Year.'

BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS

Creativity Thrives Here - at ACAD

May 2, 2017

The seeds have been planted and the Aurora Cultural Arts District is starting to grow and blossom. The soil is rich with theatre, culinary arts, visual arts, and cultural diversity. It's a great recipe for creativity and imagination. Headquartered at 1400 Dallas, the ACAD building is also home to 14 creative studios. So, as the managing director of the ACAD, Tracy Weil is very busy.



In his May 2 presentation to Business for the Arts, Weil shared many of the exciting things 'breaking through the surface' in the District, including:

- Reaching 150,000 visitors to the District in 2017 (doubling the 2013 75,000 visitors)
- The ACADIA Project - which identifies refugee and immigrant artists in Aurora and helps them build creative businesses
- Colorado Immigrant Festival (immifest) - A series of 4th Saturdays during the summer,

celebrating the immigrant communities in Aurora, with themed art, music, and food (Begins July 22, 2017)

- Summer Leadership Camp
- Pasternack's Art Studios and Gallery
- The People's Building - a performing art building at Colfax and Florence
- A feasibility study to explore additional artists' space in the District.

The District also has a pop-up space in the Stanley Marketplace, highlighting artists with connections to Aurora, as well as some Stapleton artists.

Stanley Marketplace tour and happy hour - with the YPs

June 6, 2017

BFA partnered with Young Professionals to tour Stanley Marketplace on June 6, 2017. Bryant Palmer, whose title is "Chief Storyteller" for the Marketplace gave a great overview and tour, followed by a 'very happy hour' at the Marketplace's Beer Garden. It was a great mix of nearly 60 Chamber members.



Other news for BFA: Brian Molitoris, who is the current chair of BFA recently stepped down from his role as The Chamber representative on the City of Aurora's Cultural Affairs Commission. He served for six years. Diane Rothers with Payroll Vault is replacing Brian as the member of the BFA to be on the Cultural Affairs Commission.

There will not be a meeting on Tuesday, July 4 - but the committee will schedule a meeting in early July to plan for the upcoming year.

TRANSPORTATION

Arapahoe Road widening completed!

May 3, 2017

"I have been updating this group for the last 3-4 years on the Arapahoe Road widening project - and, I'm very happy to report that this is the last time I will do so, because it's all done," said Travis Greiman, Public Works Director for the City of Centennial in his May 3, 2017 presentation to The Chamber's Transportation committee.



Travis Greiman

"We are looking at some creative and innovative ideas for the future of Arapahoe Road operations," said Greiman. There will be a year-long study period, exploring ideas including displaced left turn, Michigan U-turn, and ITS improvements. There will be two open houses for additional input and ideas.

Parking, Parking, Parking

Robert Ferrin has been on the job for almost two years as the first Parking & Mobility Manager for the City of Aurora, managing all facets of the program, including on- and off-street parking, enforcement, and mobility programs. This includes working closely with RTD on the City-

[continued on page 5]



owned RTD I-liff Station Garage, and heading up the campaign to educate the public about parking.

Ferrin touted the 'robust' Park Aurora! Website, on which you can:

- Pay a citation
- Dispute a citation
- Apply for a permit
- Pay for a permit
- Find Facility information
- Find Code and Policy Information

"Our enforcement vehicles have been called 'cute,' says Ferrin. "But, That's OK - because we want people to understand and appreciate that we are here to help with their parking and mobility needs."



Robert Ferrin

All Things Arapahoe County Transportation

June 7, 2017

On June 7, Bryan Weimer, transportation division manager with Arapahoe County, provided a comprehensive update on transportation projects and funding for Arapahoe County.



In April 2017, Weimer received a Distinguished Service Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments, for more than 30 years of dedicated service to the transportation network.

There will not be a Transportation meeting on Wednesday, July 5. The draft schedule for Aug 2017-June 2018 has been completed. (Available upon request)

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Preventing and Treating Substance Abuse

May 11, 2017

Arapahoe House President and CEO, Mike Butler, offered valuable insight on how substance abuse is affecting businesses and what can be done to prevent this disease from affecting the bottom line at the May 11 Health Series. As the largest and leading provider of substance abuse treatment in Colorado Arapahoe House has been helping employers and communities for more than 40 years.



Mike Butler

Supporting Wellness in the Workplace
June 8, 2017

The June 8 Work Well 2.0 meeting focused on how local employers support their employees' wellness. Questions included:



- What are your next steps?
- What are barriers to achieving these steps?
- How can the grant further support worksite wellness efforts?

In July, The Aurora Chamber and Tri-County Health representatives will meet to plan for the third year of the grant — to include continuation of the current program and recruiting new member companies to join the coalition.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications committee will meet in July to determine the feasibility of the website resource project for Work Well 2.0.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Doing Business with Government
June 22, 2017

The June Defense Council featured a panel of members from the contracting community, who



Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan presents Colonel David Miller, Buckley AFB Installation Commander, with a gift on behalf of the 15th Special Missions Wing that was received during a recent Sister City's Visit to the Republic of Korea. The photo will be displayed at Buckley.

shared tips about doing business with the government. Members of the panel were: Katie Woslager, Colorado Office of Economic Development and Trade; Kathryn Lobdell, Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center; Craig Davis, 460th Contracting Flight, Buckley AFB; Gary Magaw, National Security Agency Business Management & Acquisition; and Jenn Jones, National Reconnaissance Office, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, Contracting Office. The meeting was held at the Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park.

COMMITTEES PARTNER FOR MEMBER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Google Analytics: Learning About This Powerful Tool
May 30, 2017

Google Analytics is a free tool that can help you know and understand who, what, when, where, and how



people are accessing your website. The analytics service tracks and reports website traffic - and can help you determine how to define and measure goals for your website.

Ryan Masterson with Green Hat Web Solutions walked participants through the process of determining and defining goals, and gave tips on how to implement those goals into Google Analytics.

There was a bonus, too! Jet's Pizza provided more than enough delicious pizza for the 40 attendees of the workshop. So, it was a well-educated and well-fed group of Chamber members.

The workshop was sponsored by Business for the Arts, Communications, and Women in Business. ■



Member Contribution

Children's Hospital Colorado Offers Corporate Wellness and Enrichment

Submitted by Children's Hospital Colorado

Parenting. There's a lot to it and no one knows your kids like you do. But sometimes you need a quick tip, a new idea, and maybe a little support. That's where the pediatric experts at Children's Hospital Colorado can help. We hold free parenting seminars throughout Colorado, on a wide range of pediatric topics. Let us treat you to lunch while learning about the topics that are most important to you:

<https://www.childrenscolorado.org/community/corporate-relations/>



Children's Hospital Colorado

Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament Caddyshack Theme Makes for a Fun Day

It's true — for most golfers — that 'a bad day golfing is better than a good day at work.' Add a beautiful day and a Caddyshack theme — and it made for a great day at this year's 19th annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament on June 15!

The shotgun start at 8 am sent the golfers rolling out onto the Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course to test their skills and to have some fun in the sun. After 18 holes, the participants were treated to a burgers and brats lunch, and the awards ceremony.

Citywide Banks once again stepped up as the Event Sponsor for the tournament. Gold Sponsors were Adolfsen & Peterson Construction and



Metro Community Provider network, and Silver Sponsors included Advantage Security, Inc., Colorado Technical University, Community Banks of Colorado, Developmental Pathways, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Nelnet, and Wagner Equipment. Visit Aurora generously sponsored the course beverage carts — to keep the golfers well hydrated. ■



2017 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament Champions from Adolfsen & Peterson Construction, left to right: Chad Jelinek; Jeff Stroup; Rachel Gruber (Chamber Staff); Ty McConnell; and Jordan Illian.

MemberRenewals

Abilene Awards & Logos, Inc.
 Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
 Advocates for Children CASA
 AutoPros, LLC
 Backflow Consulting Testing & Repair, Inc
 Boeing Company, The
 Century Link
 ClearPath Accountants, LLC
 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Rapp
 Colorado State University-Global Campus
 Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.
 ConocoPhillips
 Core Contractors
 Creative Counseling Center, LLC
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 Denver South Economic Development Partner
 Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
 Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker
 Farmers Insurance - Jolene Johnson Agency
 Fire Safety Services
 Fogg System Company, Inc.
 Fruit Revival
 Gabrielle Cardwell
 Gateway Business Park/ PaulsCorp
 Grand Design, Inc
 Grandma's Handyman Service, Inc.
 Havana Business Improvement District
 Holiday Inn & Suites DIA
 Insula Design Studio, PC

Integrity One Wealth Strategies
 Jordan Road CARSTAR Collision
 Kaiser Permanente
 Ken's Auto Service, Inc.
 Kingspoint LLC
 Lawson, Angela
 McGrath, Jane
 Meat Truck Jones BBQ Catering
 Mountain States Employers Council
 Mr. Greenjean's Landscape Services, LLC
 NAACP - Aurora Branch
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 Paychex Inc.
 Publication Printers Corp.
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