Agreement on DIA development to go to voters

At the August Government Affairs Committee meeting, Adams County Commissioner Erik Hansen provided an update about proposed changes to the 1988 New Airport and Annexation Intergovernmental Agreement. The 1988 agreement resulted in the opening of Denver International Airport in 1995. Nearly 20 years later, in April 2012, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock laid out a concept for an “Airport City.” This prompted lengthy discussions and formal mediation, resulting in an “Aerotropolis” vision for the region. The changes proposed to the Intergovernmental Agreement will go to a vote in both Denver and Adams Counties in November 2015.

Below, are changes to the original agreement, as well as initiatives that have not been changed.

What has changed:
• Creates 1,500-acre commercial development program with opportunity for expansion
• Adams County and Denver share any and all tax revenues 50/50 percent from program

[continued on page 3]

Total Air Force on display for Civic Leaders Tour

On Tuesday, July 14, a group of Colorado civic leaders — including representatives of local government, business, and education — travelled to Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nevada, to get a first-hand view of the nation’s Total Air Force (Active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilians). Hosted by Brigadier General Samuel “Bo” Mahaney, Air Reserve

[continued on page 3]
Farewell to a great friend

As you have probably heard and/or read many times, The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to Community First, Business Always. At the end of July, our community, The Chamber, and his family, lost a beloved member — Kenneth (Ken) C. Melcher.

Ken led an incredible life, always helping others and always present. After “retiring” from the Air Force at Lowry AFB in 1978 as a Chief Master Sergeant, Ken was hired in 1979 at Lowry as an Electronics Equipment Specialist with logistic support of the F-15 and F-16 aircraft — all before truly retiring “officially” with 38-1/2 years of combined Federal service in 1994.

Following official retirement, Ken went back to work to follow his passion for veterans and community, serving as an officer and/or member of innumerable veteran organizations, community boards/committees where he received many well-deserved awards for his service, dedication, and countless contributions.

As a member of the Chamber family, Ken served as an Ambassador for 21 years, and can be seen in almost every Chamber ribbon cutting photo. He was a very active member of the Defense Council where he served on the executive committee. He also served on the Government Affairs and Transportation Committees. His involvement in The Chamber was second to none! His commitment and passion were acknowledged through many Chamber awards, including the Community Leader Award (2003), the Bob Cardenas Award for Military Support (2005), and the Ambassador of the Year Award (2002 and 2013).

Ken continued to serve his fellow veterans, his country, his community, and his family until his death on July 31, 2015. He will be missed deeply by his family, his friends, and all those he touched through his tireless efforts and kind heart.
The Chamber’s Ambassador Team recently visited a couple of Chamber members and engaged in some unique and fun activities:

**Two22 Brew**, a neighborhood and family-friendly bar, hosts a Trivia Night every Tuesday, and the Ambassador Team took on the challenge. With two 10-question trivia rounds; the first round was a warmup session, and by round two, they were ‘on fire’ and made it to the playoffs, winning the final question. You would have thought they had won a gold medal at the Olympics! It was trivial-greatness — and they will most likely return to defend their championship.

Another social gathering took the group on a totally different path — to the **Lead Valley Range/Firearm Accuracy Safety Training** in Byers, Colo. The Rotkovich family runs the facility, and gave the Ambassador team a weapon safety review, a tour of the firing range area, and an opportunity to shoot a pistol or shotgun. The night was highlighted by viewing a beautiful sunset at the top of the property.

The Ambassador Team serves as volunteers, increasing membership renewals, welcoming new members, and promoting existing Chamber programs — while also having some fun! To learn more about the Chamber’s Ambassador Program, go to [www.aurorachamber.org/committees/ambassador-team](http://www.aurorachamber.org/committees/ambassador-team).

**DIA DEVELOPMENT (con’t)**

- Denver provides Adams County with upfront payment of $10 million
- DIA retains all lease revenue from new commercial businesses
- Denver and Adams County communities create a regional entity to jointly market Aerotropolis
- DIA does not seek new commercial businesses that would compete with the nearby Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Innovation Campus in Aurora

What has not changed:
- Hotel room development restrictions
- Residential development restrictions
- Denver may still develop accessory uses and natural resources
- Noise restrictions
- Economic benefits of the new agreement include an estimated tax revenue of $150-$270 million in the first 30 years and 12,000 jobs. Colorado will also see an increased opportunity for development on and off airport by removing some protectionist restrictions and risk of litigation, ensuring a world-class competitive international airport for decades to come.

**Upcoming Events**

**Upcoming Events (con’t.)**

**OCTOBER**

**Government Affairs**
October 1 | 7:30 am

**Young Professionals**
October 2 | 3:30 pm

**Business for the Arts**
October 6 | 8 am

**Transportation**
October 7 | 7:30 am

**Health Series**
October 8 | 8 am

**Chamber Master Training**
October 14 | 12 pm

**Defense Council**
October 22 | 7:15 am

**Business After-Hours**
October 22 | 5-7 pm

**Hilton Garden Inn – DIA**

**Women in Business**
October 27 | 12 pm

**Sept. 24, 5-8 pm at the Radisson**

The **Taste of The Chamber** is a great way to network — after work — while enjoying a variety of culinary delights. Join fellow Chamber members, new members, and prospective members, at this event that makes for a delicious evening. There will be tasty samplings from an assortment of restaurants in the eastern Metro community, including signature creations, flavorful food samples, cooking demonstrations, and wine tastings.

**Get $10 off your Taste of the Chamber ticket**
(individual tickets only, not VIP)
Registering before September 16, 2015.
Register at [www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar September 24](http://www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar).

**CIVIC LEADERS (con’t)**

Personnel Center commander, the group travelled to Nellis in a KC-135 strato-tanker, getting an impressive view of the Grand Canyon along the way.

Once at the base, all of the hard working military were very proud to show off the great work they are doing. Nellis was a frenzy of activity due to the Red Flag air to air combat exercises being held. Varying types of aircraft — including F-15s, F-16s, F-22s, F-35s, AWACs, and B1 Bombers — were launching throughout the visit as part of the exercises.

A highlight of the tour was meeting the pilots and maintenance crews of the world famous Thunderbirds, and watching them launch. In addition, the group learned about the role of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) — don’t call them drones — in combat support. RPA pilots work demanding eight hour shifts, and have been involved in every engagement at some level for more than a decade.

The participating leaders valued the experience, attaining a greater respect and appreciation for the behind-the-scenes operations that keep our nation safe and secure.
The annual Chamber Board retreat was held on August 11, at the Expo Recreation Center in Aurora. The group spent the day in a team building activity (cooking) - and getting to know each other through speed networking, hosted by Tony Rayburn with Extreme Relationship Management.

Split into two groups, each had the opportunity to network and to cook. The “lunch” group organized themselves in the kitchen making appetizers, salad, and a delicious shrimp ragout over griddled polenta cakes; while the other half experienced speed networking. After lunch, the groups switched and dessert was created.

During this, everyone learned something about their fellow board members, making them a more cohesive and effective board, focusing on the Chamber’s mission of giving voice to the business community and serving as an advocate for its members, and creating a positive business environment that encourages growth and long-term economic vitality.

The day ended with — a tornado warning — which brought the group even closer together, as everyone had to take shelter while the storm passed.

It was an exciting day, filled with positive interactions, great food, and a few surprises.

NOTE: Photos from the August 11 Annual Board Retreat (all listed left to right):

Chamber Board:
John Adams, Colorado Technical University
Jason Altshuler, Westerra Credit Union
Joe Barela, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Randy Berner, Adolfson & Peterson Construction
Lisa Buckley, American Automation Building Solutions
Christy Dobson, Children's Hospital Colorado
Col. Floyd Dunston, 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard
Ryan Evans, Advantage Security
Christopher Fasching, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Gian Gandolfo, Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport
Barry Gore, Adams County Economic Development
René Gullickson, Wells Fargo Bank - Business Banking
Tom Henley, Xcel Energy
Steve Hogan, City of Aurora - Mayor & City Council
Mickey Hunt, 140th Wing (Colorado National Guard)
Nancy Jackson, Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Bob Jamieson, Mutual of Omaha
Shannon Jones, FirstBank
Kristi Kleinholz, Outback Steakhouse
Cindy Kreutz, Healthcare Consultant
Peter Lee, Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Dale Mingilton, Adams 14 Education Foundation
David Patterson, Falck Rocky Mountain
Alfonso Núñez, La Cueva Restaurant
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, Community College of Aurora
Suzanne Pitrusu, Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka, Fitzsimons Credit Union
Brittany Rogers, Colorado Access
Louis Salazar, ConocoPhillips
Ryan Simpson, The Medical Center of Aurora
Paul Suss, Suss Buick GMC
Dwight Taylor, The Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC.
Todd Trace, Century Link
Matt Weber, Kaiser Permanente
Gary Wheat, Visit Aurora
Charles “CJ” Whelan, City of Centennial

Chamber Staff
Naomi Colwell
Kevin Hougen
Chance Horiuchi
Linda Lillyblad
Tamara Mohamed

NOTE: Photos from the August 11 Annual Board Retreat (all listed left to right):

Gary Wheat, Mayor Steve Hogan, Tamara Mohamed, Kevin Hougen, and Katrina Brink, Cooking Instructor


Jason Altshuler, Todd Trace, and Tom Henley
If you’re running a business, or working for a business – you don’t have a lot of time for things that don’t pertain to your business, or your family. However, your health is one of your most important assets – and if you’re a ‘boss,’ the health of your employees can greatly affect the bottom line for business.

On November 19, Destination Health 2015 changes everything.

This year, attendees will experience a series of short, powerful talks about topics in healthcare that matter to businesses and to individuals — according to a recent survey of Chamber membership:

- An Elephant in the Room: Mental Health
- Stress and Anxiety in the Workplace
- Nutrition
- Worksite Wellness
- Update: The Affordable Care Act for Business
- Marijuana and the Workplace
- Digital Health
- Financial Health Effects on Overall Health and Worksite Wellness
- Health-Related Absenteeism in the Workplace
- Social Determinants of Health
- Healthcare Transparency
- Population Health and the Distribution of Health
- Generational Health
- What is a Medical Home?
- Workers’ Comp and Healthy Employees

The event is from 4-7:30 pm, with talks and information you can use from 4-6 pm, followed by a “healthy hour-and-a-half,” during which the presenters will be available to engage in conversations with individuals in a casual setting, while enjoying healthy appetizers and wine and beer.

Take a couple of hours; increase your knowledge about how health and a healthy economy are the ticket to success.

Individual tickets are $20. Sponsorships are also available and offer a variety of benefits, including advertising on the Chamber’s website, video production, and a chance to address entire audience. For more information, contact Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org or 303-344-1500.
Check out the newest Exclusive Member Discount

The Chamber embraces new ways to provide resources that help turn business goals into reality.

*Insperity* has been a trusted advisor to businesses across the country for nearly three decades, supporting more than 100,000 businesses with more than two million employees.

*Insperity* is hosting a Lunch and Learn at The Chamber September 30, 11:30 am - 1 pm:

People Driven Business: 4 New Rules for High-Value, High-Profit Enterprise. For more information and to register, go to www.aaurorachamber.org/calendar September 30 Lunch and Learn.

*Insperity* offers Chamber members HR relief, by taking on time-consuming human resources tasks, allowing more time for what matters most to you and your business. No matter your HR needs – payroll, recruiting, workers’ compensation, benefits, performance management, or retirement – *Insperity* has specialists with the expertise to advise and support you.

Exclusive Member Discounts can be found at www.aaurorachamber.org/services/exclusive-member-discounts.

Two councils, one mission: economic impact

The Aurora Chamber’s Defense Council (ADC) and the Colorado Springs Military Affairs Committee (MAC) held a joint meeting at the Colorado National Guard Training Facility on June 25.

ADC Chair Lisa Buckely and MAC Chair Major General (retired) Mark Volcheff, provided overviews of their respective areas. The keynote speaker was Colorado’s Adjutant General, Major General Mike Edwards, who gave a summary on the April 2015 Military Value and Economic Impact of Department of Defense Activities in Colorado.

Gen. Edwards communicated that Department of Defense (DOD) investment and spending provide Colorado with a defense-oriented “industry,” generating significant economic impact. The report shows that the DOD is responsible for 5-7.5 percent of the State’s total economy in terms of employment, earnings, and state tax revenues. DOD-related employment in Colorado is nearly 170,000.

At the end of the meeting, Lisa Buckely received a plaque of gratitude from Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen, for serving as the Defense Council Chair June 2012-June 2015.

UCHealth announces new president and CEO

University of Colorado Health (UCHealth) welcomes Will Cook as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of University of Colorado Hospital.

“It’s an honor to be named President and CEO for one of the leading hospitals in the nation, let alone the state. University of Colorado Hospital is known for its remarkable capabilities in healthcare and is the ‘go-to’ hospital for complex surgeries and advanced care in the region,” said Cook.

Cook brings 20 years of academic healthcare leadership and experience to his new role with UCH, coming from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), where his most recent role was served as senior vice president of UPMC’s Health Services Division, chief operating officer of Physician Services, and president of UPMC Mercy.

“Will is going to be a strong asset to University of Colorado Hospital and to our patients, the knowledge and experience he brings ensures UCH will remain a national leader in health care.” said President and CEO of UHealth Elizabeth Concordia.

Kleinholz is Partner of the Year

Kristi Kleinholz, proprietor of the Outback Steakhouse on 2066 S. Abilene St. was recently presented with Partner of the Year Award for sales growth, profit growth and community involvement.

Woolley’s Classic Suites named one of world’s best

Expedia.com released their annual list of the best reviewed hotels in the world and the only U.S. hotel that made the top ten is here in Aurora, Colorado!

*Woolley’s Classic Suites* took the number four spot on the travel website’s list, boasting an average 4.9 out of 5 guest rating and 100 percent recommendation rate.

“This truly is an important occasion for the entire community,” said Mayor Steve Hogan. “When someone succeeds as well as this project has succeeded, it is an indicator of what the future is going to be in this city.”

Superheroes delight patients at Children’s Hospital Colorado

Superheroes were coming down from the rooftop on Aug. 12 at Children’s Hospital Colorado. The heroes rappelled from the rooftop, down the western-facing windows — surprising and delighting many young patients through the windows.

These Superheroes are actually ‘double heroes,’ because behind the masks of Batman, Robin, Spiderman, and Captain America, there were Aurora Police SWAT team members. This is the second year for the Superheroes event at Children’s.

Xcel Energy seeks public input about transmission line

As part of a comprehensive plan to strengthen electric service and continue integration of cleaner and renewable energy sources along Colorado’s Front Range, *Xcel Energy* is proposing construction of a new, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect its existing Pawnee Substation near Brush, Colo., to its Daniels Park Substation south of the Denver metro-area. The 125-mile project is part of the company’s Senate Bill 07-100 portfolio and is a critical component of Colorado’s long-range transmission plan. It will allow for the interconnection and delivery of new generation resources, including wind power and natural gas, to Front Range customers to meet new load growth and improve local system reliability.


For more information, or to submit comments/questions: www.sbol0transmission.com or call 303-318-6307.
Everest College: A better career, a better life, a better way to get there — Ivan Nikolaeff, Academic Dean, Diane Booren, Director of Services and Mayor Steve Hogan cut the ribbon, welcoming guest to learn more about Everest College and their transition to a non-profit institution. With a number of locations to choose from, Everest College is now offering 20 percent lower tuition costs with hands-on training, flexible class scheduling, experienced professionals, modern equipment, student financial planners, career services assistance, learning centers and online courses! www.everest.edu / 303-745-6244. (6.29.15)

Action-oriented, academically excellent — Director Dana Rocha, Stephanie Fisher, and faculty members of Webster University welcome the community to their open house on August 13. Webster University provides accredited undergraduate and graduate school education to students in Colorado and across the world. With opportunities to study on campus or earn a degree online, academic programs are focused on student success and taught by faculty with professional experience in their academic fields. www.webster.edu/denver / 303-708-8305. (8.13.15)

Plan your big events right here in Aurora! – Heritage Event Center opens their doors, welcoming the community to learn more about this new facility. Gregory McDonald, Mayor Steve Hogan, and City Council member Marsha Berzins cut the ribbon to this unique venue. The Heritage Event Center features over 35,000 square feet of flexible meeting space that can accommodate events from executive board meetings to conferences and special events. info@heritageeventcenter.org / 303-739-5080. (7.29.15)

Harvard Square Retirement Community’s expansion promotes wellness and happiness – Construction started this week on the expansion of Harvard Square Retirement Community. A new, 18,000-square foot memory care building will complement the community’s existing assisted living and independent living environments at 10200 E. Harvard Ave. The new building will accommodate up to 40 residents when completed next summer. www.harvardsquare.watermarkcommunities.com/living-choices/villa-memory-care/ (9.13.15)

Two law firms celebrating together — and working for the good of the people

Holding the scissors, Kevin Cahill, Criminal Defense Attorney and Owner of Law Office of Kevin Cahill, LLC, cuts the ribbon to his business at 3900 E. Mexico Ave., Ste. 300, Denver, CO 80210. With more than 20 areas of practice related to criminal defense, Cahill has a track record of success – both in getting favorable pre-trial settlements and in receiving positive verdicts when cases do go to court. He received the badge for The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 Under 40, and is a member of the National College for DUI Defense. www.cahillcriminaldefense.com / 720-445-9887. (6.17.2015)

Jim Bickford of Bickford Law LLC, (left of Cahill) cuts his own ribbon immediately following Cahill, for his business at 4255 S. Buckley Rd., Ste. 275, Aurora, CO 80013. Bickford is an experienced attorney representing business and individuals in market and distressed situations. Bickford maintains that the best attorneys are strategic business advisors, and that’s the kind of relationship he strives to maintain. His practice areas are real estate, contracts, business formation, business dissolution, insolvency, and bankruptcy. www.bickfordlegal.com / 720-600-6011. (6.17.2015)
The Leadership Aurora Class of 2015-16 has been selected and will be heading to Breckenridge, Colo., for their team-building retreat September 17-19. Class members are:

John Adams  Colorado Technical University  
Rafael Almagro  Kaiser Permanente  
Chris Amsler  City of Aurora - Police Department  
Kyla Anthony  Community College of Aurora  
Brian Arnold  High Point Ministries  
Sarah Arvin  Aurora Mental Health  
Sandra Bond  Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
Rene Capron  Capron Law, LLC  
Gabrielle Cardwell  InnovAge Greater Colorado PACE - Chambers Center  
Justin Clark  Visit Aurora  
Papa Dia  African Leadership Group  
Charles Dukes  Aurora Public Schools  
Ryan Dunn  Mile High Spine and Sport  
Morgan Gerdes  Southlands Shopping Center  
Karen Goldman  City of Aurora - Deputy City Clerk  
Jay Grimm  Aurora Public Schools Foundation  
Tom Isaacson  Retired, Cherry Creek Schools  
Jennifer Just  Kevin Carlson Golf  
Kristin Kleinholz  Outback Steakhouse  
Noah Lawonn  Advantage Security  
Renée Leon  AutoPros, LLC  
Kathryn Lobdell  Procurement Technical Assistance Center  
Craig Lyle  Aurora Public Schools - Vista Peak  
Farrah Martin  Aman STEAM Academy  
Cole Mayer  Adolphson & Peterson Construction  
Marcia McGilley  City of Aurora - Small Bus. Development  
Tamara Mohamed  Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Chad Neilsen  Wagner Equipment Company  
Chaneil Reed  City of Aurora - City Council  
Joe Rockwell  City of Aurora - Fire Department  
Ksenia Shishkovskaia  FirstBank  
Karlynn Shorb  Aurora Sister Cities  
Brian Sowl  Nelnet  
Catherine Truth  Community College of Aurora  
Eric Ward  Pickens Technical College  
Maya Wheeler  Consultant  
Judith Williams  Purewater Dynamics and the Great American Coffee Co.  
Deborah Winans  Community Re-enty Place Inside/Out

On July 18, Stanley Marketplace sponsored a boat at the annual Dragon Boat Festival at Sloan’s Lake. Many Chamber members came together as team, rowing their way to a Silver Medal!

The team, named the Stanley Sailors included (alphabetical order): Bill Foster, Ev Studio; Chad Argentar, City of Aurora; Chance Horiiuch, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Elizabeth Brooks, University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus; Jason Altschuler, Westernerra Credit Union; Jeff Nemec, Southlands Shopping Center; Josh Hensley, Aurora Public Schools; Joyce Rocha, Southlands Shopping Center; Lorin Ting, Stanley Marketplace; Mark Shaker, Stanley Marketplace; Michelle Wolfe, City of Aurora; Mitzi Schindler, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Richard Howlett, Nilar; Sarah Wieder, City of Aurora; Tamara Mohamed, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Timothy Gonerka, City of Aurora; Tony Chacon, City of Aurora; Wes Holliman, Mobile Epiphany.

The Stanley Marketplace is a food-centric, community-inspired marketplace, opening early 2016, in the former Stanley Aviation building at 2501 Dallas St., Aurora, CO 80010.