



## October 4 – 8, 2010

- ["Door-to-Door" Regional Meetings Continue](#)
- [Vote for Issues 2 & 3 on the November Ballot](#)
- [Leadership Arkansas Class V Kicks Off With Class Retreat and Tourism Session](#)
- [Save These Dates](#)
- [Next Small Business Council Meeting to Cover "Cyber Liability"](#)
- [Growing Arkansas Green Economy Workshop Slated for October 26th](#)
- [Welcome to Our New Members](#)
- [Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

### **"Door-to-Door" Regional Meetings Continue**

The State Chamber/AIA continues its show on the road with "Door-to-Door" Regional Meetings throughout the state. The meetings feature presentations on state and federal governmental affairs issues and State Chamber/AIA programs and events.

The remaining 2010 slate of planned "Door-to-Door Regional Meetings includes:

- Russellville – October 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the LakePoint Conference Center
- Batesville – October 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Course at Eagle Mountain (800 Gap Rd.)
- Blytheville – November 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn

The State Chamber/AIA is seeking sponsors for these meetings. If your company would like to be a sponsor, contact Bill Watson at [bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-802-1740.

Reservations are required to attend these meetings. To make a reservation or for additional information, contact Deb Mathis at [dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-210-4212.

[-back to top-](#)

### **Vote for Issues 2 & 3 on the November Ballot**

The State Chamber/AIA has taken a leadership role in The Committee for Arkansas's Future to get Issues No. 2 & 3 passed on the November ballot.

A vote for Issues No. 2 & 3 is a vote to create more and better jobs in Arkansas.

**Issue No. 2** – Arkansas is at a competitive disadvantage due to out-of-date interest rate laws. Our interest rate limits are tied to the federal discount rate that was at double digit levels when our current laws were adopted 30 years ago, but the discount rate is now almost zero as part of the effort to stimulate the economy. Our laws are the most restrictive in the United States. They were aimed at protecting consumers but now, unfortunately, restrict credit in the state, and impede the ability of local governments to finance important public projects. As a consequence, our laws often increase costs by restricting financing alternatives, rather than protect the public and consumers.

**Issue No. 2 would:**

- Remove the existing method of determining the interest rate cap on all governmental bonds and loans, and permit restrictions to be adopted by the Legislature that could be modified as required by changing economic and market conditions,
- Eliminate the current below market interest rate cap on consumer and other loans that effectively prevents local businesses from offering credit to customers, while preserving the existing interest rate cap at 17 percent and,
- Allow local governmental units to save public funds by providing an effective method of financing energy savings products.

The current law severely restricts, and in many cases prevents, state government and municipalities from raising money through bond issues for important projects such as police and fire stations, hospitals, streets and roads, recreation facilities, and economic development infrastructure. The proposed amendment would offer flexibility for state government and municipalities to actually lower the interest paid on bonds by being able to take better advantage of low interest rate environments.

**Issue No. 3** – Arkansas deserves the same economic development tools as our competitors. Arkansas voters resoundingly passed Amendment 82 (commonly known as the Super Project Amendment) in 2004, but technical restrictions have kept the amendment from being of any value in today's rapidly changing economic environment.

**Issue No. 3 would:**

- Authorize the General Assembly to issue bonds to help recruit jobs and remove the requirement of \$500 million in capital investments and 500 jobs for a single project.
- Offer much greater flexibility for this valuable economic development tool while preserving the existing cap on the annual amount of money that can be dedicated to bond repayment.

Arkansas has been unable to compete for certain projects with states like Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas. These states operate without our restrictions. The projects in which we were not competitive did not satisfy the dollar investment or number of employees currently required by Amendment 82. The proposed amendment would broaden the application of economic development funding, thereby producing a greater statewide impact and benefit.

For more information on Issues No. 2 and 3, click [here](#).

[-back to top-](#)

## **Leadership Arkansas Class V Kicks Off With Class Retreat and Tourism Session**

Leadership Arkansas Class V kicked off this week with a Class Retreat and Tourism Session at LakePoint Conference Center in Russellville.

Additional sessions scheduled for the class include:

- Session I – November 16-17, State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting, Peabody Hotel, Little Rock
- Session II – January 20-21, South Arkansas, Camden
- Session III – March 17-18, Northwest Arkansas, Siloam Springs
- Session IV – May 19-20, Fort Smith Region, Fort Smith
- Session V – June 23-24, Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro
- Session VI – June 24, Graduation, Jonesboro

The State Chamber/AIA is seeking sponsors for these sessions. If your company would like to be a sponsor, contact Bill Watson at [bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-802-1740.

For additional information on the Leadership Arkansas program, contact Susie Marks at 501-210-4206 or [smarks@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:smarks@arkansasstatechamber.com).

[-back to top-](#)

## **Save These Dates**

The Governor's Quality Award Banquet will be held on Monday, November 15th at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock beginning with a Reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner at 6:45 p.m. For more information, contact Sue Weatter at [sweatter@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:sweatter@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-372-2222.

The State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16th also at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. Please watch your e-mail for additional information. For more information, contact Deb Mathis at [dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-210-4212.

[-back to top-](#)

## **Next Small Business Council Meeting to Cover “Cyber Liability”**

The next State Chamber/AIA Small Business Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the State Chamber Conference Room Lunch will be provided, followed by a legislative update. Jenny Bradford, an attorney with Regions Insurance, will provide a presentation on “Cyber Liability.”

Thanks to **Arkansas Capital Corporation Group**, meal sponsor for all 2010 Small Business Council meetings.

For further information, contact Jeff Thatcher at [jthatcher@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:jthatcher@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-210-4205.

Small Business Council meetings are open to all members of the State Chamber/AIA.

[-back to top-](#)

## **Growing Arkansas Green Economy Workshop Slated for October 26th**

Pulaski County Brownfields Program is holding a Growing Arkansas Green Economy Workshop on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Arkansas can no longer afford business as usual. The Growing Arkansas' Green Economy Conference faces this challenge and brings together the brightest innovators leading the growth of the new green economy in the state.

The Workshop will be held in North Little Rock with a goal of forging new strategic partnerships and getting the inside view on the current trends and technologies. Explore the latest in sustainability strategies and best practices, and lead your organization to success. Through investing in training, in research and development of alternative energy, there is a significant opportunity available to create new green job opportunities that can help get America back on its feet again. The green economy is a major economic paradigm shift. There will be an increased need for individuals and organizations that are ready and able to facilitate these new ideas.

Conference registration is free. Please RSVP by October 12, 2010. For more information, please contact the Pulaski County Brownfields Office at 501-340-6157. To link to the conference website, click [here](#). To access the Pulaski County Brownfield website, click [here](#).

[-back to top-](#)

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Thanks to the following new members which recently joined the State Chamber/AIA:

**ADP**

**Arkansas Elder Outreach**

**B & C Bindery, Inc.**

**Greenbrier Rail Services**

**JGP, Inc.**

**KMF. Inc.**

**PC Assistance**

**Premier Staffing**

River City Tents, Inc.  
River Valley Solar  
Sealed Air  
US Food Service  
Yabal Staffing Consultants LLC

[-back to top-](#)

## Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

Thanks to all of our Pinnacle investors, the respected companies that support the State Chamber/AIA at the highest annual investment levels. We appreciate all that they do for us.

### **APEX**

Entergy Arkansas, Inc.  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

### **SUMMIT**

Chesapeake Energy, Inc.  
Cox Communications  
Southern Bancorp, Inc.  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
XTO Energy, Inc.

### **PEAK**

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Arvest Bank  
AT&T Arkansas  
BP America, Inc.  
CardinalHealth  
CenterPoint Energy Southern Gas  
Deltic Timber Corporation  
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas  
FedEx Freight - East  
Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC  
Nucor/Nucor-Yamato  
Oaklawn Jockey Club  
Southland Park Gaming & Racing  
Southwestern Energy Company  
State Farm Insurance  
Verizon Wireless  
Welspun Tubular, LLC  
Windstream Corporation

## **CROWN**

**Acxiom Corporation**  
**AEP Southwestern Electric Power**  
**Albemarle Corporation**  
**American Greetings Corporation**  
**America's Car-Mart, Inc.**  
**Arkansas Department of Workforce Services**  
**Arkansas Employees Federal Credit Union**  
**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**  
**Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation**  
**CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company**  
**Cherokee Casino West – Siloam Springs**  
**Crossland Construction**  
**Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.**  
**Delta Natural Kraft**  
**Dynegy**  
**Energy Transfer/Fayetteville Express Pipeline**  
**Evergreen Packaging Company**  
**Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc.**  
**Fidelity National Information Services**  
**Forest Oil Corporation**  
**Glad Manufacturing/A Clorox Company**  
**International Paper Company**  
**Kimberly-Clark Corporation**  
**Kraft Foods**  
**Lion Oil Company**  
**McKee Foods Corporation**  
**Mid-America Packaging, LLC**  
**Nabholz Construction Corporation**  
**Nice-Pak**  
**OG+E**  
**PACO Steel & Engineering Corp.**  
**Petrohawk**  
**Philander Smith College**  
**Riceland Foods, Inc.**  
**Russellville Steel Company Inc.**  
**Signature Bank of Arkansas**  
**Stephens Inc.**  
**Suez Energy North America**  
**The Clorox Company**  
**US Bank**  
**Waste Management**  
**Weyerhaeuser Company**  
**Wright Lindsey & Jennings**

[-back to top-](#)

## Calendar of Events

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| October 3-5    | Leadership Arkansas Class V<br>Class Retreat and Tourism Session<br>LakePoint Conference Center<br>Russellville |
| October 12     | Russellville “Door-to-Door” Meeting<br>7:30 – 9:00 a.m.<br>LakePoint Conference Center                          |
| October 13     | Batesville “Door to Door” Meeting<br>11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.<br>The Course at Eagle Mountain (800 Gap Rd.)          |
| November 8     | Blytheville “Door to Door” Meeting<br>11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.<br>Holiday Inn  |
| November 15    | Governor’s Quality Award Banquet<br>Peabody Hotel<br>Little Rock  |
| November 16-17 | Leadership Arkansas Class V<br>Session I<br>Peabody Hotel<br>Little Rock  |
| November 16    | State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting<br>Peabody Hotel<br>Little Rock  |
| November 30    | Small Business Council Meeting<br>11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.<br>State Chamber Conference Room                      |

[-back to top-](#)

[Who We Are](#) | [News Center](#) | [Governmental Affairs](#) | [Events](#)  
[Membership](#) | [Partners & Links](#) | [Site Index](#)  
[Search](#) | [Contact](#) | [Copyright 2010](#)