



January 2 – 6, 2017

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Don't Miss the 2017 State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception

Don't miss the 2017 State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception! Presented by [Arkansas Learns](#), [Cox Communications](#), [Southland Park Gaming and Racing](#) and [Stephens Inc.](#), the 2017 Legislative Reception will be held from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 17 under the big tent in the State Chamber/AIA north parking lot.

We would also like to thank and recognize the other sponsors of this event:
Premier – **Walmart Stores Inc.**, **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas**, **XTO Energy, Inc.** and **Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.**

Host- **Arkadelphia Regional EDA**, **AOG/Stephens Production Company**, **Black Hills Energy**, **Farm Services Credit Services of Arkansas**, **Gerdau Special Steel**, **Nabholz Construction Services**, **Southwestern Energy Co.** and **Tyson Foods.**

Supporting – **Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**, **Great Lakes Solutions - A Chemtura Business**, **Cross County Economic Development Corp.** and **AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company.**

In-Kind – **Arkansas Beverage Association**

The Annual Legislative Reception is a don't-miss event that draws hundreds, including state legislators, constitutional officers, state officials, State Chamber/AIA member representatives, officers and board members, Leadership Arkansas alumni and others, and provides a great opportunity for members of the state's business community to network and interact one-on-one with state legislators and other elected officials.

We also look forward to recognizing our sponsors as well as those member companies who are helping grow our Political Action Committees at the event. If your company or organization would like to help sponsor the 2017 Legislative Reception, contact Bill Watson at bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-802-1740.

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Toni Bahn Named Director of Governmental Affairs for Northwest Arkansas

Toni Bahn has been named State Chamber/AIA Director of Governmental Affairs representing the Northwest Arkansas region. Bahn will work in ways that enhance the reputation, grow the membership and foster community relations with local chambers/chamber members and elected officials in Northwest Arkansas, while promoting the State Chamber/AIA agenda to legislators across the state.

Bahn worked for the University of Arkansas Department of Athletics for the past 16 years as Director of Special Events, Television Show Coordinator for the Head Football and Basketball Coaches' Shows and in several other capacities.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Communication from the University of Arkansas in 2000 and has completed coursework for a Master's degree in Communication from the U of A. She also has extensive experience serving on various 501(c)(3) boards in a leadership role, plus additional philanthropic experience from a member, volunteer and donor role.

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Support ASCC/AIA PACs with an Investment in the Voice of Arkansas Business!

You should have received a packet in the mail recently with a letter inviting you to our Legislative Reception (more details included in the newsletter above). There, we also reminded you of our increased efforts to grow both the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce (ASCC) PAC and the Associated Industries of Arkansas (AIA) PAC. These PACs serve as vehicles to help communicate the business community's goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to those running for, and currently holding political office.

Many thanks to those organizations who have stepped up and supported the PACs in these last two months; we have raised almost \$30,000 in this short time, with contributions of all sizes. We also have been able to distribute contributions to legislators as well! **Will you join us in supporting this effort as we lead up to the Legislative Reception so that we may show**

the true strength of this organization and our ability to make meaningful, bold change in our state government?

Just click [here](#) to donate to ASCC PAC or [here](#) to donate to AIA PAC. We will be recognizing PAC donors at the Legislative Reception and want to be sure to include you!

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El Dorado and Camden Site of Next Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session

Leadership Arkansas Class XI will hold Session IV: Energy, Natural Resources & Industrial Development on Jan. 10-11 in El Dorado and East Camden. **Great Lakes Solutions/Chemtura** is sponsoring the session.

The Underwriting Sponsor for the 2016-2017 Leadership Arkansas program is [The Citizens Bank](#) of Batesville. The Presenting Sponsor is [ARcare](#), and Statewide Program Sponsors are [Farm Credit of Arkansas](#), [Nucor Steel-Arkansas](#), [Southland Park Gaming & Racing](#) and [Walmart](#).

Other planned sessions include:

Session V: Economic Development, Infrastructure & Agriculture
February 22-24, West Memphis & Jonesboro, Arkansas
Sponsored by **Southland Park Gaming & Racing**

Session VI: Education
March 30-31, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Session VII: Regional Development
April 20-21, Fayetteville, Springdale & Bentonville, Arkansas

Session VIII: Leadership, Planning & Graduation
May 18-19, Little Rock, Arkansas
Sponsored **AEP/Swepco** and **Regions Insurance**

If your company or organization would like to help sponsor Leadership Arkansas Class XI or one of the sessions, contact Bill Watson at bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-802-1740.

For more information on Leadership Arkansas, click [here](#).

For questions, contact Leadership Arkansas Program Director Andrew Parker at aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-372-2222.

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State Chamber/AIA Partners with Staples Business Advantage

The State Chamber/AIA has partnered with Staples Business Advantage to bring you a best-in-class business supply discount program that delivers value through negotiated savings and superior customer service.

Our partnership with Staples Business Advantage, the world's largest office products company, is designed to give you exclusive pricing on all of your business supply needs.

Since companies can spend \$200-\$300 per year for each employee in office supplies, \$800 in printing, and \$1,200 in technology, you are investing heavily in necessary office costs for each of your employees. Leveraging our member-only Staples Business Group Purchasing Program, you can now save between 15-30 percent.

Additionally, you will have a dedicated Staples team that will ensure this program delivers significant savings, spending reports and unmatched levels of service.

- Members save an average of 15-30 percent off Staples's already low prices
- Best buy list of 2,500 most frequently purchased items
- Free delivery for orders over \$50
- More than office supplies- a fully integrated solution with discounts on furniture, technology, facilities, breakroom, and promotional products
- Print solutions: \$0.02 black/white, \$0.23 color copies, 50% off finishing services

More than office supplies

Staples offers much more than just office supplies. Through the Staples Advantage Program, members can save on cleaning and breakroom supplies, office furniture, technology, promotional products and print solutions.

To enroll, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Shelley Short at sshort@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-210-4206.

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Take Advantage of 2017 Governor's Quality Award Applicant Training

Interested in applying for a Governor's Quality Award in 2017 and beginning a journey toward performance improvement? Using the questions in the *Baldrige Excellence Framework* you prepare an application and submit it to be assessed by a team of trained examiners to determine award level with a feedback report on gaps and strengths. All applicants are recognized at the annual Awards Celebration.

There are four levels of award with the Governor's Quality Award Program.

- Governor's Award for Performance Excellence
- Achievement
- Commitment Award
- Challenge Award

For more information on the requirements at each award level, go to www.arkansas-quality.org, and click on the Awards tab.

The Governor's Quality Award Program provides training on writing an award application at all levels of award. **All training for the 2017 award cycle will be at the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.**

Applicant Training III – Focusing on Details
Wednesday, January 11 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

With over 200 questions in the Baldrige Excellence Framework, it is important to fully respond to questions to provide information requested. However, not every question needs a response. Learn how to provide complete answers that are appropriate to each individual organization without the appearance of a gap in performance.

This training is for Achievement and Governor's Award level applicants. Cost is \$50.

Commitment Award Training
Wednesday, January 11 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Commitment Award applicants write an application answering a specific set of questions from the Baldrige Builder. How to answer those questions completely to receive maximum feedback results and determine level of award will be discussed.

This training is for Commitment Award level applicants. Cost is \$50.

To register, go to www.arkansas-quality.org.

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SBA Still Accepting 2017 National Small Business Week Award Nominations

The U.S. Small Business Administration is still accepting nominations for its 2017 National Small Business Week Awards, including the annual Small Business Person of the Year. Since 1963, National Small Business Week has recognized the outstanding achievements of America's small businesses for their contributions to their local communities, and to our nation's economy.

The dedicated website www.sba.gov/nsbw/awards provides forms, criteria and guidelines for submitting a nomination.

Awards given in celebration of National Small Business Week, April 30 – May 6, include the following:

- **Small Business Person of the Year**
 - One from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.
- **Exporter of the Year**
- **Phoenix Awards for Disaster Recovery**
 - Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery
 - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Public Official
 - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Volunteer
- **Federal Procurement Awards**
 - Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year
 - Small Business Subcontractor of the Year
 - Dwight D. Eisenhower Awards for Excellence (for large prime contractors who use small businesses as suppliers and contractors)
 - 8(a) Graduate of the Year
- **Jody C. Raskind Lender of the Year**
- **Small Business Investment Company of the Year**
- **Awards to SBA Resource Partners**
 - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Excellence and Innovation Center Award
 - Women's Business Center of Excellence Award
 - Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Year

All nominations must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. CST, next Tuesday, Jan. 10.

All nomination packages for Arkansas Awards may only be hand delivered or mailed to:

SBA - Arkansas District Office
2120 Riverfront Drive, Suite 250
Little Rock, AR 72202

Arkansas Award winners will be recognized at the 2017 Small Business Awards Luncheon, hosted by the State Chamber/AIA on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in west Little Rock.

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Groups Now Registering for 2017 Blue & You Fitness Challenge Contest

Groups are now registering for the 2017 Blue & You Fitness Challenge. The contest, hosted by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Human Services, is a free-to-enter, three-month competition, from March 1 – May 31, aimed at increasing cardiovascular activity.

Beginning in March, participants can log their activity on the Challenge's website, www.blueandyoufitnesschallenge-ark.com, to earn points. As their points accumulate, they will

receive motivational messages and virtual medals. If they're on a team, their points are combined with those of their teammates. Scores are displayed on the site's leaderboard where teams can see how they rank. Winning teams are named base on accumulated points.

Businesses use the event as part of their wellness programs, while friends and family use the contest as a chance to stay or get in shape, remain connected and have fun. With eligible activities that range from walking to wheelchair wheeling, people can accrue points doing almost anything.

The Challenge offers free resources, including:

- Administrative guides and checklists
- Art for posters and banners
- Templates for motivation messaging
- A mobile-friendly website with reporting functionality
- Optional email reminders and newsletters with health tips

In the past, participants have reported a reduction in blood sugar levels, cholesterol, blood pressure and weight. Those committed to the 2017 Challenge can expect similar benefits. To complete the Challenge, participants must log at least 30 points. The maximum number of points is 276

Group registration for the Challenge ends February 14; the deadline for individuals to register is February 28. All participants must be age 13 or older.

Individuals who wish to participate but don't have a team or group may register under the team, Me, Myself & I Workout, using the group code: workout. For more information, call 1-800-686-2609 or log on to www.blueandyoufitnesschallenge-ark.com.

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Thanks to Our New and Upgraded Members

Thanks to the following new members that have recently joined the State Chamber/AIA and to those members that have recently upgraded their membership investment in our organizations:

Arkansas Blood Institute
Arkansas Graphics
Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency, Inc. (ARORA)
Edward Jones – Chris Hughes
Flis Enterprises
Hackney Ladish, Inc.
Hino Motors Manufacturing USA, Inc.
Outdoor Cap Co., Inc.

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Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

We would like to thank and recognize **Hackney Ladish, Inc.** for recently upgrading their AIA membership to the Crown Pinnacle level and **Hino Motors Manufacturing USA, Inc.** for recently joining the AIA as a Crown Pinnacle member.

Thanks to our more than 115 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.

If your company or organization is interested in upgrading its membership investment to the Pinnacle level, contact Membership Development Representative Marcus Turley at mturley@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-210-4203.

APEX

**Deltic Timber Corporation
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Southland Park Gaming & Racing
Walmart Stores, Inc.**

SUMMIT

**Nucor/Nucor-Yamato Steel
Tyson Foods, Inc.
XTO Energy, Inc.**

PEAK

**Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Arvest Bank
AT&T Arkansas
CenterPoint Energy
Central Moloney Inc.
Citizens Bank
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc.
Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC
McGeorge Contracting Company Inc.
Oaklawn Jockey Club
Southwestern Energy Company
State Farm Insurance
Winrock International**

CROWN

**AEP Southwestern Electric Power
Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation**

Albemarle Corporation
American Greetings Corporation
Anthony Timberlands Inc.
ARcare
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
Arkansas Learns
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
Arkansas Petroleum Council
Baldor Electric Company
Baptist Health
Bear State Bank
Ben E. Keith Company
Big River Steel
BKD, LLP
Bryce Corporation
Caterpillar Inc.
Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH)
Central States Manufacturing, Inc.
Clean Line Energy
The Clorox Company
Communications Sales & Leasing (CS&L)
ConAgra Foods
Conway Corporation
Cooper Communities Inc.
Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.
Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.
Denso Manufacturing Arkansas, Inc.
Domtar
El Dorado Chemical Company
Energy Transfer/Fayetteville Express Pipeline
Evergreen Packaging Company
Farm Credit Services of Arkansas
Fidelity National Information Services
First Community Bank
FutureFuel Chemical Company
Garver
Glad Manufacturing/A Clorox Company
Golden Living
Goodwill Industries
Great Lakes Solutions – A Chemtura Business
Hackney Ladish, Inc.
Harrison Energy Partners
Hino Motors Manufacturing USA, Inc.
Hot Springs Village POA

Hytrol Conveyor Company Inc.
Image Works Commercial Interiors
International Paper Company
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Kimble Mechanical Systems
Kinco Constructors, LLC
Kutak Rock LLP
Lennox International
Lexicon Inc.
LifePlus International
Little Rock Port Authority
LM Wind Power - Arkansas
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
Mainstream Technologies, Inc.
Martin Marietta Materials
McKee Foods Corporation
MISO
Murphy Oil Corporation
Murphy USA
Nabholz Construction Services
National Center for Toxicological Research
Novus Arkansas, LLC
OG+E
Ozark Mountain Poultry
Parts Warehouse, Inc. /Replacement Parts, Inc.
Pernod-Ricard - USA
Philander Smith College
Powers of Arkansas
Pro Window & Door
Rheem Air Conditioning
Riceland Foods, Inc.
Rivendell Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas
Russellville Steel Company Inc.
Schickel Development Company
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Simmons First National Corporation
Simmons Foods, Inc.
Snyder Environmental
Southwest Power Pool
Stephens Inc.
Teladoc
The Roberts Group
Trinity Rail
UAMS
Union Pacific Railroad
USAbLe Life

**U.S. Bank
Verizon Wireless
Waste Management of Arkansas
Windstream
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP
W&W/AFCO Steel LLC**

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Calendar of Events

- January 10-11 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session IV
Energy, Natural Resources & Industrial Development
El Dorado and East Camden
- January 12 Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar
Registration Closed – Full Capacity
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bob Lamb Conference Room
State Chamber Building
Little Rock
- January 17 State Chamber/AIA Annual Legislative Reception
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Under the Big Tent
State Chamber North Parking Lot
Little Rock
- February 2 Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar
Registration Closed – Full Capacity
11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Bob Lamb Conference Room
State Chamber Building
Little Rock
- February 22-24 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session V
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Agriculture
West Memphis and Jonesboro
- February 23 Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bob Lamb Conference Room
State Chamber Building
Little Rock
- March 16 Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bob Lamb Conference Room

- State Chamber Building
Little Rock
- March 30 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair
 Little Rock Air Force Base
- March 30-31 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session VI
 Education
 Hot Springs
- April 20-21 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session VII
 Regional Development
 Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville
- May 4 27th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon
 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Embassy Suites Hotel
 Little Rock
- May 18-19 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session VIII
 Leadership, Planning & Graduation
 Little Rock

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