



January 16 – 20, 2017

- [Don't Miss TODAY'S State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception](#)
- [Are You on Board?](#)
- [The New Marijuana Law and Your Workplace](#)
- [West Memphis/Jonesboro Sites of Next Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session](#)
- [GQA Program: Take Advantage of Professional Opportunities for Your Employees!](#)
- [State Chamber/AIA Partners with Staples Business Advantage](#)
- [AEDC's Manufacturing Solutions Hosting Cybersecurity and Fraud Seminar](#)
- [Groups Now Registering for 2017 Blue & You Fitness Challenge Contest](#)
- [Thanks to Our New and Upgraded Members](#)
- [Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Don't Miss TODAY'S 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. **TODAY**, 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, Entergy Arkansas Inc., XTO Energy, Inc. and Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.

Host- Arkadelphia Regional EDA, AOG/Stephens Production Company, Black Hills Energy, Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Farm 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.

[-back to top-](#)

Are You on Board?

Many thanks to those State Chamber/AIA members who have stepped up and supported our Political Action Committees (PACs) in these last few months! You have made a difference in what we have been able to do with those funds, and we are confident it will make an impact for the business community during this legislative session.

However, we need more of you on board to show the true strength of this organization. Our PACs are the best vehicles to help communicate the business community's goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to those running for, and currently holding political office.

If you haven't already, will you please make a donation to ASCC PAC or AIA PAC today?

Click [here](#) to donate to the ASCC PAC or [here](#) to donate to the AIA PAC. Or, you can bring your donation to the State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception today to the PAC table we will have on site. With your help, we can make meaningful, bold change in our state government!

[-back to top-](#)

The New Marijuana Law and Your Workplace

Thursday, February 23, 2017 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

Now that Arkansas is the latest state to have a medical marijuana law on the books, Arkansas employers must be prepared to address this issue in the workplace. What specific actions can Arkansas businesses take to help ensure compliance? How do you respect the rights of an employee who has permission to use medical marijuana, yet protect other staff and customers?

In this session, Wright Lindsey Jennings labor and employment attorney Stuart Jackson will explore the implications of Arkansas's new medical marijuana law in the workplace. He will provide an overview of the current law and expected legislative activity in the regular session, as well as address employment-related compliance issues, such as:

- Differing obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Arkansas Civil Rights Act;

- Protections for “qualifying patients” in the hiring, termination and discipline processes;
- Compliance concerns for federal contractors; and
- A to-do list to prepare your workplace.

Cost is \$50 for State Chamber members and \$75 for non-members. Registration fee includes a light lunch. To register, click [here](#).

This session will be led by **Stuart Jackson** with Wright Lindsey Jennings' Labor and Employment Team. Stuart advises employers on compliance with civil rights laws and developing personnel policies, employment agreements and covenants not to compete. Jackson also defends employers in federal and state court litigation and appeals involving claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Arkansas Civil Rights Act. Jackson is listed among *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA* “Leader in the Field” and *Mid-South Super Lawyers*, and has an AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5 Peer Review Rating through Martindale-Hubbell.

[-back to top-](#)

West Memphis/Jonesboro Sites of Next Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session

Leadership Arkansas Class XI will hold Session V: Economic Development, Infrastructure & Agriculture on Feb. 22-24 in West Memphis and Jonesboro. **Southland Park Gaming & Racing** 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 VI: Education

March 30-31, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Sponsored by the **Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts** and **Seiz Signs**.

Session VII: Regional Development

April 20-21, Fayetteville, Springdale & Bentonville, Arkansas

Sponsored by **Black Hills Energy** and **Northwest Technical Institute**

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.

[-back to top-](#)

GQA Program: Take Advantage of Professional Opportunities for Your Employees!

The Governor's Quality Award Program is now accepting applications for the 2017 Board of Examiners. Examiners assess award applications for the Governor's Quality Award. **New examiners receive three days of training at no charge learning skills for analysis of organizational processes with a focus on results and linkages. Skills developed in analytical and consensus-building and a systems perspective can be applied within your own organization.**

Training for Arkansas examiners is modeled after the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program (BPEP) which received the first-place award in the government and military category of the Leadership 500 Excellence Awards, an annual recognition of the world's best leadership development programs and initiatives. The Baldrige Program raises awareness about the importance of performance excellence in driving the U.S. and global economy; provides organizational assessment tools and criteria; educates leaders in businesses, schools, health care organizations, and government and nonprofit organizations about the practices of national role models; and recognizes those role models with the Baldrige Award.

If you would like to take advantage of this professional development opportunity and provide service to business in Arkansas, go to www.arkansas-quality.org and click on 2017 Board of Examiners Application.

Award Application Writing Services are now available for Governor's Quality Award Applications!

If you have wanted to apply for a Governor's Quality Award and not had the time or personnel to write an application, application writing services are now available at the Challenge and Commitment level of award for 2017. The process of writing an award application can help in preparation for other accreditation processes such as ISO 9001:2016. Contact Sue Weather at sweather@arkansasstatechamber.com or call at 501-372-2222 for more information on how you can apply, receive recognition and feedback from the Governor's Quality Award Program.

[-back to top-](#)

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.

[-back to top-](#)

AEDC's Manufacturing Solutions Hosting Cybersecurity and Fraud Seminar

Manufacturing Solutions, a department of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Existing Business Resource Division, will host a cybersecurity and fraud seminar for small businesses from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, February 16 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock. Five speakers who are experts on cybersecurity-related issues such as cybersecurity fraud and liability, internet safety, financial risk mitigation, ransomware, safe banking procedures, and use of social media in the workplace, will offer practical solutions to address these serious and costly problems facing small businesses.

Attendees will learn ways to strengthen their cybersecurity framework, prevent hacks and mitigate cyber-related losses. The average cost of a cybersecurity breach on an affected small business was an average of \$38,000 in 2015, according to a study by cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab.

“Reports of massive data breaches among small businesses are becoming increasingly more common and affect the growth and development of our economy,” said AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston. “While cybersecurity is a concern among all businesses, the majority of all targeted cyberattacks in the past year were directed at small and mid-sized businesses. It is especially threatening to these businesses, about 60 percent of which have been reported to go out of business within six months of the attack. We want to do whatever we can to keep Arkansas’ small businesses safe so they can continue to grow and reach their full potential.”

The cost of the seminar is \$25 per person, and refreshments will be served. For more information on the seminar or to register, please visit <http://www.mfgsolutions.org> and click on the “training calendar” tab at the top of the page.

[-back to top-](#)

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.

[-back to top-](#)

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 Physicians Management

[-back to top-](#)

Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

Thanks to our more than 120 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**

[-back to top-](#)

Calendar of Events

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

[-back to top-](#)

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