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Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Report 2014

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Vice Chairman:
Gerard Dehmann
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Vice Chairman:
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State Chamber/AIA:
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Raymond M. Burns
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

In Memoriam
Arkansas State Chamber/AIA lost a great leader and wonderful friend, Bob Lamb, who passed away in the fall of 2014 at the age of 82. Lamb headed the State Chamber/AIA for 25 years – from 1965 to 1990 – and worked on economic development for the state for many more. During his tenure, he represented business interests at the State Capitol, headed several successful efforts to keep Arkansas a right-to-work state, and organized and led hundreds of industrial job recruitment trips around the nation. He will be sorely missed.
2015 State Chamber Board

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John Parke
POW, Inc.
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Steve Patterson
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Leon Philip
Rich Mountain Electric Cooperative Inc.
Len Pitcock
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Rob Ratley
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Arvest Bank
Reynie Rutledge
First Security Bank
Michael Shelley
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Sam Scard
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Boot World Inc.
Dan Sullivan
Aradia Health Care Arkansas
Frank Thomas
Stephens Inc.
Van Tilbury
East-Harding Construction
Sam Walls
The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group
Charles Welch
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2015 AIA Board

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Scotty Bell
Viro Manufacturing Corporation
Scott Bull
Pace Industries
Patty Cardin
Great Lakes Solutions-A Chemtura Business
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Nucor Steel-Arkansas
Thomas Ethingridge
Austin Powder Company
John Farmer
Novus Arkansas, LLC
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Bryce Corporation
Kyle Gaither
FutureFuel Chemical Company
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Paul Rivera
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Thomas Schueck
Lexicon Inc.
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McKee Foods Corporation
Colin Sterling
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
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Bryce Corporation
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Kimberly-Clark Energy Company
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Donmar
Chris Weiser
J V Manufacturing Inc.

Lifetime

Oral Edwards
GES INC./Food Giant
Ex Officio

Marvin Childers
The Poultry Federation
Jim Davis
Georgia-Pacific
Tom Kennedy
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Kurt Knickrehm
Regions Insurance
Max Koonce
Walmart Stores Inc-CMI
Paul Means
Entergy Arkansas
Andy Miller
Southwestern Energy Company
Gary Newton
Arkansas Leans
Michael O. Parker
Dover Dixon Home PLLC
Archie Schaffer III
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Robert D. Smith
Attorney
Lynn Tatum
Tyson Foods, Inc.
State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception Held Again Under the “Big Top”

Despite concerns of possible inclement weather, the State Chamber/AIA Annual Legislative Reception went off without a hitch on February 10 under the “Big Top,” a heated and lighted tent erected on the front State Chamber/AIA parking lot. The event drew several hundred attendees including state legislators, constitutional officers, state officials, representatives from State Chamber/AIA member firms, State Chamber/AIA officers and board members, Leadership Arkansas alumni and others. The Annual Legislative Reception provided 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.

Randy Zook and State Sen. Larry Teague

Former Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge and Ben Noble of Noble Strategies

Martha Hill of Mitchell Williams, Kirkley Thomas of Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Rich Davis of SourceGas Arkansas
The tent was jammed with participants.

Gina and Wade Radke of Galley Support Innovations and Mitch Bettis of Arkansas Business Publishing Group

AEDC Director Grant Tennille, Marla Johnson Norris of Aristotle, Inc. and Roby Brock of Talk Business
89th General Assembly—
2014 Fiscal Session Recap

The 2014 Fiscal Legislative Session began on February 10 and adjourned Sine Die on March 19.

Senators filed 138 appropriation bills and House members filed 150 appropriation bills.

House members also filed 184 Interim Study Proposals.

The 2014 Fiscal Session was dominated by efforts to pass the Department of Human Services-Division of Medical Services appropriation bills – HB 1150 and SB 111 – containing the “Private Option.” SB 111 passed the Senate in late February after Senator Jane English (R – North Little Rock) changed her vote to become the 27th member of the Senate to support the measure after securing extensive funding and infrastructure improvements for workforce education and training for Arkansas’s current and future students, the workforce, and all state businesses working to attract and maintain a competent workforce. State Chamber President & CEO Randy Zook said: “These developments are nothing short of spectacular.”

Unfortunately, the measure repeatedly failed in subsequent House votes with a three-quarters majority required for passage. On March 4, the Arkansas House finally approved SB 111 by a vote of 76 to 24. The bill was then sent to Gov. Mike Beebe, who subsequently signed it into law.

Zook said the vote to approve the legislation to continue funding the Private Option was “a tough vote and a smart move that is good for Arkansas.” The State Chamber/AIA was very appreciative of those legislators who supported the legislation.

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SB 111 allows Arkansas to use federal Medicaid funds to purchase private insurance for thousands of low-income residents. The program was approved during the 2013 General Session as an alternative to expanding Medicaid under the federal health care law. Gov. Beebe had said that rejecting the $915 million in federal funds for the private option would jeopardize other state services. Beebe’s proposed $5 billion budget relied on $89 million in savings he said the private option would create by cutting down on hospitals’ uncompensated costs.

SB 60, the appropriation for Workers’ Compensation Commission operations, which has been a consistent issue of interest for the State Chamber/AIA, also was passed and signed into law.

Prior to the adjournment of the Fiscal Session, the Joint Budget Committee adopted the $5 billion state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. The final budget approval came in the form of bills (SB 147 and HB 1159) known as the Revenue Stabilization Act (RSA).

On the final day of the Fiscal Session, House members elected Rep. Jeremy Gillam (R, Judsonia) to be House Speaker-designate for the 90th General Assembly. Sen. Jonathan Dismang (R, Searcy) was previously elected to be the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
National Issues

During 2014, the State Chamber/AIA communicated with our Congressional Delegation and appropriate governmental contacts in regard to the following federal issues which our organizations support:

• Regulatory reform
• Comprehensive tax reform
• Comprehensive immigration reform
• More fiscal certainty in Congress
• The Marketplace Fairness Act
• Free Trade

The State Chamber/AIA also was involved with the following litigation issues during 2014:

• The fight against the effort to undermine the Federal Class Action Fairness Act Standard Fire v. Knowles
• Stopping the effort to use the Felony Tort Act to make an end-run around the Workers Compensation Act Lambert v. LQ Management
• The fight against the effort to eliminate the effectiveness of arbitration clauses within agreed-to contracts Rosenow v. Alltel Corp.

• Joining the amicus curiae brief jointly filed in support of the U.S. Chamber’s legal challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) authority to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) under the Clean Air Act (CCA).

• An Amicus Brief the State Chamber/AIA filed in mid-June at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the Purple Communications, Inc. and Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO matter. The brief urges the NLRB to NOT reconsider its conclusion in a previous decision styled, Register Guard. At issue is the ability of labor unions and other organizations to use employer e-mail systems to communicate with employees. Additionally, the State Chamber/AIA continued to work on behalf of business concerns in a coalition of state organizations battling against a proposed critical habitat designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for two species of mussels – the Neosho mucket and Rabbitsfoot – which would impact 42 percent of Arkansas’s geographical area. The effort seeks to reduce the proposed critical habitat for the two freshwater mussels and create a better legal and regulatory environment for dealing with future habitat designations.

The coalition worked with the Arkansas Congressional delegation to get bills filed in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives that seek to require the USFWS to conduct an adequate examination of the financial impact (public and private) that critical habitat designations can produce.

“How to Win an Election” Seminar Held in Little Rock

“How To Win An Election,” a two-day seminar sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas, was held January 30-31 in the Bob Lamb Conference Room of the State Chamber/AIA Building in Little Rock.

This seminar teaches participants how to evaluate the candidate and the electorate, build a campaign structure, raise money, enlist allies, create coalitions and get last-minute election-day voter attention.

The seminar was developed by American Farm Bureau, an organization noted for its understanding of the political process, with the help of professional political consultants and staff members of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The seminar included video recording, a case study and a computer-simulated campaign.
“Unleashing the Energy Revolution” Presented by U.S. Chamber Institute

Karen Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber Institute for 21st Century Energy, provided a presentation on “Unleashing the Energy Revolution” during a State Chamber/AIA-sponsored luncheon that drew more than 100 attendees on February 25th at Heifer International Center in Little Rock. The biggest roadblock to future energy exploration and prosperity in America is government regulation, specifically efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue rules that block and inhibit energy-related activities including oil and natural gas drilling, coal plants and nuclear plants, Harbert said.

BIPAC Brings Grassroots and Political Training Event to State Chamber

The Business and Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC), of which the State Chamber/AIA is a State Prosperity Project member, brought its “On the Road Grassroots and Political Training Event” to the State Chamber/AIA in mid-April. The event drew nearly 40 State Chamber/AIA members interested in learning how to develop methods to better engage their employees and other audiences in the political process.

Presentations on employer-to-employee communication theory, basics and best practices; general election strategies and primary election activities; and involvement options and implementing grassroots and political activities were provided by BIPAC’s staff including Greg Casey, president & CEO; and Joe Savarise, senior vice president.

State Chamber/AIA Joins the Partnership for a Better Energy Future

Following the presentation by Karen Harbert of the U.S. Chamber Institute for 21st Century Energy in late February, the State Chamber/AIA joined The Partnership for a Better Energy Future (“the Partnership”), which is leading a unified advocacy campaign in response to the Obama Administration’s greenhouse gas (GHG) regulatory agenda. The Partnership’s fundamental mission is to ensure the continued availability of reliable and affordable energy for American families and businesses. The State Chamber/AIA encouraged members to join the Partnership throughout the year via its various media channels.
State Chamber/AIA Hosts Congressional Delegation Members

The State Chamber/AIA invited each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation to have coffee presentations with our members to discuss their plans to deal with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed greenhouse gas regulations pertaining to power plants. The letters urged each member of the delegation to oppose and hold hearings within the state pertaining to the EPA proposals which would limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing and new power plants and pose a serious economic threat to every business sector and industry in Arkansas and our national economy. Presentations were made by former U.S. Rep. and new U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor on August 7, former U.S. Rep. and new Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin on August 20, and U.S. Sen. John Boozman on September 4.

Candidate Forums for Statewide Candidates Held

The State Chamber/AIA held two forums for the statewide candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General on September 9 and September 25 in the Bob Lamb Conference Room at the State Chamber Building in Little Rock. Both events drew significant member attendance. Each candidate was allotted 25 minutes with 10 minutes to speak and 15 minutes for questions.
Door to Door Meetings Held from September through Early December

In partnership with local chambers of commerce throughout the state, the State Chamber/AIA visited 19 local communities from early September through early December to personally introduce business and community leaders to federal and state issues and our legislative priorities for the 90th Arkansas General Assembly that affect our business community. The meetings, which drew several hundred attendees, were held in Little Rock, Conway, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, Batesville, Clarksville, Sherwood, Jonesboro, Paragould, Osceola, West Memphis, Fayetteville, Bentonville, Monticello, Blytheville, Russellville, Arkadelphia and Texarkana. Thanks to the local chambers for hosting us!

David Maxwell and Tiffany McNeal at Arkadelphia

Fayetteville attendees visit prior to the presentation

Andrew Parker presents at Osceola
Randy Zook presents at the Little Rock meeting

Paragould participants

Pine Bluff attendees

Conway participants
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Women Can! 2014 - Empowering the Professional Woman

Leadership Arkansas presented Women Can! 2014 - “Empowering the Professional Woman” on March 18 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock. The event drew several hundred attendees and was an opportunity for professional women from around the state to come together to discuss leadership strategies, career empowerment, professional development and networking. The event featured speakers on a wide range of topics, including personal branding, negotiation skills, mentorship/sponsorship, small business development, career transitions, management tips/skills, workplace adversities and politics. Keynote speakers included Anne Doyle, Sonja Hubbard, CPA, Korto Mormolu and Stephanie Street.
Approximately 300 people attended the 24th Annual Arkansas Small Business Awards Luncheon on May 1 in Little Rock. Hosted by the State Chamber/AIA, the event honors recipients of awards presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Adam Bruns, managing editor of Site Selection Magazine, which produces The Aerospace Report, was the keynote speaker. Roby Brock of Talk Business was MC for the event.

Mike Gueringer and Paul Reesnes, co-owners of Custom Aircraft Cabinets, Inc., an Associated Industries of Arkansas member, received the Small Business Persons of the Year Award.
State Chamber/AIA Holds Reverse Washington Fly-In at Governor’s Mansion

The State Chamber/AIA held a Reverse Washington Fly-In on August 25th at the Governor’s Mansion in Little Rock, which drew several hundred attendees. The State Chamber/AIA welcomed our Congressional delegation and their Washington D.C. and Arkansas staff members to meet and network with our members, the business community and economic developers during their August recess in a casual setting.

The Reverse Washington Fly-In provided the opportunity for our members to speak with members of our Congressional delegation and their staffs in regard to top Chamber legislative priorities, including energy, transportation, labor and health care policy.

The Reverse Washington Fly-In drew a big crowd.


Scott Sullivan, Rhona Cline and Marvin Childers

Anna Cotton, U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton and State Chamber Chairman Mike Callan
Gov. Beebe, Stephen Moore Speak at State Chamber/AIA 86th Annual Meeting

Approximately 600 representatives from businesses from throughout the state gathered on November 12th at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock for the State Chamber/AIA 86th Annual Meeting.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe provided remarks immediately following lunch and praised the State Chamber/AIA, President & CEO Randy Zook and the staff. He also reminisced about his eight years as governor, working with a broad coalition of interests to move the state forward.

Headline speaker Stephen Moore, chief economist at The Heritage Foundation, predicted that the U.S. will become energy independent and even dominant within the next six years thanks to the boom in oil and natural gas production from drilling in shale formations.

Prior to the Annual Meeting luncheon, the State Chamber/AIA Board of Directors held a business meeting. The 2015 slate of officers and board members was also elected. Your officers and board members can be found at the front of the Annual Report.
State Chamber Chairman Mike Callan

AIA Chairman Steve Cousins

Randy Zook

Whitney Yoder, Travis Stephens and Michael Lindsey

Keynote Speaker Stephen Moore

Ray Dillon and Bill Hannah

Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Report 2014
The Automotive Service Technology program is designed to prepare students to enter the automotive field as responsible members of the workforce with a basic knowledge in all eight ASE certification areas.

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Manufacturing Engineers • Industrial Sales
Aerospace Machinists
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Our Greatest Asset is Our People

We have buildings ... We have machinery ... We have systems ... We have processes ... But the asset we value most are the dedicated members of our production teams who work together to manufacture our top-quality distribution transformers and components. The next time you tap a light switch, remember that our careful craftspeople made it possible for your lights to come on. We appreciate them.
Integrating Excellence.

Deltic Timber Corporation’s vertical integration of strategic assets brings together a value chain greater than the sum of its parts. Starting with the ownership and management of approximately 530,200 acres of Southern Pine timberland, Deltic enhances this natural resource through efficient manufacturing processes at its two dimension lumber sawmills and medium density fiberboard plant.

While recognizing the responsibility of environmental stewardship, the Company transforms select land holdings into their highest and best use through residential and commercial real estate development.

Excellence in vertical integration positions Deltic Timber Corporation for future growth in an expanding economy.

McKee Foods was the first bakery to sell individually wrapped cakes in a multipack carton in 1960. The product line was named after a granddaughter of the founders. A carton of 12 cakes had a suggested retail price of 49 cents at that time. Twelve cakes would have cost 60 cents if sold separately. Today, we are still a great bargain and we are America’s Number One Snack Cake - made right here in Northwest Arkansas.
State Chamber/AIA, Gov. Beebe Co-Host Manufacturing Forum

A Manufacturing Forum featuring Governor Mike Beebe, members of his Workforce Cabinet, representatives from 40 manufacturing companies from all corners of the state, and representatives comprising two and four-year colleges was held in late May at the Arkansas Governor’s Mansion to generate ideas and dialogue to meet Arkansas’s growing need for a competent and engaged workforce. The meeting was co-hosted by the State Chamber/AIA and Gov. Beebe and generated passionate comments from those in attendance, many of whom indicated significant needs for skilled and engaged workers.

Young Manufacturers Academy Holds Seven Sessions throughout State

Thanks to the generosity of a $15,000 contribution from the Gene Haas Foundation, the State Chamber hosted the Young Manufacturers Academy (YMA) in late July-early August at seven locations around the state in partnership with Arkansas two-year colleges. YMA is designed to reach young people from grades 6 through 11 who are interested in careers in manufacturing.

Some 600 young people attended the sessions on the campuses of Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK) in Pine Bluff, South Arkansas Community College (SouthArk) in El Dorado, Phillips County Community College of the University of Arkansas in Helena-West Helena, and College of the Ouachitas at Sheridan High School. An additional Academy took place on the campus of Metro Vocational Center, a division of the Little Rock School District.

The 2014 Young Manufactures Academy is the signature program of Dream It. Do It. Arkansas, a collaboration between employers, our educational system, our workforce development agencies and economic development organizations to address the critical shortage of qualified workers.
State Chamber/AIA Promotes Manufacturing Day 2014 on October 3

The State Chamber/AIA again partnered with the National Association of Manufacturers in promoting Manufacturing Day 2014 on October 3. In Arkansas, 23 Manufacturing Day events with 58 companies were held including plant tours, open houses, etc. Manufacturing Day provides manufacturers a unique opportunity to expand the knowledge about the greater benefits of a career in manufacturing and demonstrates the manufacturing industry’s value to the U.S. economy.

2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event Held August 7th in Little Rock

The Arkansas State Chamber/AIA, in partnership with the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, again co-hosted the Hiring Our Heroes event in Central Arkansas on August 7 at the Goodwill Industries Resource Center in Little Rock.

Hiring Our Heroes, a program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, was launched in March 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities. Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s vast network of state and local chambers and strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, our goal is to create a movement across America in hundreds of communities where veterans and military families return every day. More than 23,000 veterans and military spouses have obtained jobs through Hiring Our Heroes job fairs. More than 1,500 businesses of all sizes have pledged to hire 411,000 heroes as part of the Hiring 500,000 Heroes campaign. Of those commitments, 255,000 hires have been confirmed with thousands more in the pipeline right now.

Manufacturing Day 2014 event at Dassault Falcon Jet

Area service veterans interested in securing jobs visit with one of the employer vendors
“Jobs Now – Arkansas Works When We Do” Workforce Summit Held

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Foundation and various partners hosted “Jobs Now – Arkansas Works When We Do,” a statewide workforce summit on September 23 in the Governor’s Hall at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

The purpose of the summit was to capitalize on previous meetings and events with manufacturing company human resource managers, general managers, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe and members of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. Several hundred attendees participated in Jobs Now including State Chamber/AIA members and partners, the Governor and his Workforce Cabinet members, the Arkansas Legislature, leadership and educators from all higher education institutions, superintendents, principals, teachers and counselors in the K-12 education system, Arkansas PTA members and others.

Presenters included Gov. Beebe; Jennifer McNelly, President & CEO of The Manufacturing Institute; Ted Abernathy, Managing Partner of Economic Leadership and Economic Advisor to the Southern Governor’s Association; Bill Hannah, Chairman of the Board of Nabholz Construction Services, Inc.; Phil Simon, Global Technical & Product Training for John Deere Company; Steve Williams, President & CEO of Maverick Transportation, Inc., Dr. Glen Fenter, President of Mid-South Community College; Tori Huggins, Lead Welding Instructor for the Arkansas Pipe Trades Association; Chris Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority; Joe Quinn, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for Walmart, Inc. and Dr. Willard Daggett, Founder and Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education. Roby Brock of Talk Business & Politics moderated the Lunch Keynote Arm Chair Discussion.
Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Report 2014

Roby Brock, Bill Hannah, Phil Simon and Steve Williams during the Lunch Keynote Arm Chair Discussion

Joe Quinn speaks during the Afternoon Session Panel Discussion

Dr. Glen Fenter makes a point during the Afternoon Session Panel Discussion

Tori Huggins talks about the shortage of welders during the Afternoon Session Panel Discussion

Chris Masingill speaks during the Afternoon Session Panel Discussion

One of the attendees asks a question
Committees Play Major Role in State Chamber/AIA Success

Committees play a major role in the success of the State Chamber/AIA. Consisting of business leaders from member companies across the state, issue committees meet throughout the year to help identify and develop key issues that are critical to the future of Arkansas.

The committees provide the State Chamber/AIA governmental affairs team guidance in understanding complex topics that often require a great deal of specific expertise. This equips our lobbyists with insights and knowledge about an issue’s potential impact on our member companies and our state.

The State Chamber/AIA Committees and their leaders include:

Health Care
Chairman: Kurt Knickrehm, Regions Insurance Group
The Health Care Committee frequently plays the role of facilitating a consensus between employers and health-care providers as the State Chamber/AIA endeavors to maintain and improve quality health care and find practical means of providing benefits and containing costs. The State Chamber/AIA also plays a leading role in the Employers Healthcare Coalition, which develops positions that are in line with the needs and desires of employers.

National Issues
Chairman: Archie Schaffer III, Tyson Foods
The National Issues Committee identifies issues the State Chamber/AIA will address on the federal level. Given the myriad of national issues, this is an ambitious task, but we also rely on strong partnerships with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and their staffs. The committee has developed a list of nine priority issues – health care, the farm bill, education and workforce development, union card check legislation, climate change, energy policy, economic stimulus, taxes and immigration.

Unemployment Insurance/HR
Chairman: Michael S. Moore, Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP
Co-Chairman: Daniel H. Woods, Timex (retired)
The Unemployment Insurance/HR Committee plays a vital role similar to that of the Workers’ Compensation Committee. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS) has an Employment Security Advisory Council that seats management, labor and consumer representatives. All of the management seats are filled with members of the State Chamber/AIA Unemployment Insurance/HR Committee, including the committee’s chair. This council reviews and negotiates legislative proposals developed by the DWS staff. The State Chamber/AIA committee provides guidance to the management members on the council in these negotiations. The committee also develops pro-business legislation. Broad business representation on this committee is necessary to make sure that the impact of new legislation upon all segments of business is considered. The committee also considers and provides guidance to State Chamber/AIA lobbyists on a variety of human resource issues.
Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Report 2014

**Tax**

*Chairman: Marvin Childers, The Poultry Federation*
*Co-Chairman: Jim Davis, Georgia-Pacific*
*Legal Counsel: Michael O. Parker, Dover Dixon Horne, PLLC*

The Tax Committee works to ensure a favorable business climate in Arkansas through analyzing tax issues, recommending positions and testifying at legislative and regulatory hearings on tax matters. It also accomplishes this goal through educating, coordinating and working actively with taxing entities to ensure the fair and equitable administration of taxes. It is by far the State Chamber/AIA’s most active committee. During a legislative session, the committee meets as often as necessary to review tax bills. In the off-season, it meets to address regulatory issues and discuss developing tax issues.

**Governmental Affairs**

*Co-Chairmen: Len Pitcock, Cox Communications; Robert D. Smith, III, Attorney*

The Governmental Affairs Committee is comprised of governmental affairs representatives and lobbyists who represent member companies, business associations and organizations. The group meets weekly during legislative sessions to monitor pending legislation and other issues of importance to the business community with the goal of developing a consistent lobbying strategy. This committee meets during election years to discuss candidates. It also provides guidance and support to the State Chamber/AIA lobbying team on a variety of issues.

**Workers’ Compensation**

*Chairman: Lynn Tatum, Tyson Foods*
*Co-Chairman: Max Koonce, Walmart Stores*

The Workers’ Compensation Committee keeps a close eye on the state’s workers’ compensation laws. Prior to and during each legislative session, the State Chamber/AIA develops pro-business legislation and reviews all related legislation filed by others. This committee also reviews rules, regulations and other issues related to the Workers’ Compensation Commission and monitors important judicial decisions. It is extremely important that as many businesses as possible participate in this committee to properly evaluate the potential impact an issue might have on given segments of business.

**Education**

*Chairman: Gary Newton, Arkansas Learns*

Recognizing that the workforce of tomorrow is in the schools of today, the Education Committee proactively advocates the interests of business and industry as the State Chamber/AIA strives to improve education in Arkansas. The committee examines issues in K-12 education, higher education and workforce development. This committee identifies projects and tracks their successful implementation, as well as identifying and recommending policy changes and positions that will make Arkansas school systems more successful.

The State Chamber/AIA invites our members to become involved by serving on one or more committees. If you are interested, please contact Deb Mathis at 501-210-4212 or dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com.
E-Newsletters

The State Chamber/AIA continued its efforts during 2014 to reach the broadest possible business audience via various e-newsletters.

- **E-Business** is a twice-monthly compendium of articles chronicling our organizations’ events, activities, program, efforts and committees.
- **Daily Legislative Update** is e-mailed each business day during legislative sessions and outlines the day’s most important issues being tracked by the State Chamber/AIA Governmental Affairs team.
- **Washington Watch** is e-mailed the second week of each month and concentrates on federal issues that have impact upon businesses.
- **Industry Insight** is e-mailed the fourth week of each month and focuses on manufacturing and industrial news and issues including new business announcements, groundbreakings and expansions of existing business and industry.
- In addition, periodic **Congressional Updates** are e-mailed to members when major federal issues like health care reform are being considered.
- Archived copies of our e-newsletters are also posted on our web site: www.arkansasstatechamber.com.

Web Sites:

**www.arkansasstatechamber.com and www.arkansasprosperity.org**

The State Chamber/AIA continued to add features and updates to its award-winning website, www.arkansasstatechamber.com, throughout the year. Additions included various graphics and videos posted to the front page and the YouTube Channel.

The Arkansas Prosperity Project website, www.arkansasprosperity.org, was also redesigned and unveiled. The Arkansas Prosperity Project site is designed to give readers the information and tools they need to make it to the polls, cast informed votes and become more informed in the electoral process.

Arkansas Manufacturers Directory

In 2014, the State Chamber/AIA published its fifth **Arkansas Manufacturers Directory**.

- The Manufacturers Directory, an Associated Industries of Arkansas publication, is a guide to becoming involved and being heard within the manufacturing sector.
- It provides a listing of all manufacturers in Arkansas by city and is also a resource that provides practical information on different aspects of Arkansas business, industry, climate, attractions, business support, natural resources, geography, certain laws and tax policies, and other items.
Membership Directory and Buyers’ Guide

In late July, the State Chamber/AIA published the organizations’ seventh *Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide*.

- Published annually, the *Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide* includes listings of members, information on standing committees, and descriptions of products and services many companies provide for business development professionals.
- The *State Chamber/AIA Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide* is a great resource for locating a wide variety of products and resources offered by the ASCC/AIA’s approximately 1,200 member companies.
- This directory is available exclusively to State Chamber/AIA members. The Buyers’ Guide provides members with a ready list of suppliers and products, key executives, and decision makers. Members gain year-round exposure in this comprehensive member resource, which is used by consumers and industry professionals.

State Chamber/AIA Expands Social Media Presence

In an effort to gain traffic and build exposure throughout the state, the State Chamber/AIA continued and expanded the effort to grow our social media presence via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Daily posts were added to all three media. Members were urged to “like” or “follow” the State Chamber/AIA pages for the social media outlets.

BIPAC Recognizes State Chamber/AIA with STAR Award for Excellence

The State Chamber/AIA was recently recognized by the Business Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC) with a STAR Award for Excellence for its Outreach and Recruitment Efforts via the Arkansas Prosperity Project.

The award was one of only six presented nationally at the BIPAC/P2 Deployment Partner Strategic Planning Meeting, which was held December 8-9 in San Diego, CA.

The State Chamber/AIA combined various events and initiatives in its efforts to promote outreach and recruitment efforts for the Arkansas Prosperity Project over the past year including a keynote presentation by BIPAC President & CEO Greg Casey at the 2013 Annual Meeting, an “On the Road Grassroots and Political Training Event” in April at the State Chamber Building, and pushes to register voters and Get Out the Vote prior to the 2014 general election. Media implemented in the approach included State Chamber/AIA printed publications and E-publications, State Chamber/AIA social media channels, op-ed pieces in statewide media, and the State Chamber/AIA and Arkansas Prosperity Project websites.

Marcus Turley Joins Million Dollars Club at ACCE Annual Meeting

State Chamber/AIA Membership Development Specialist Marcus Turley received multiple awards at the annual American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Convention in mid-August at Cincinnati, Ohio. Turley placed first in the nation for membership dollars raised and joined the prestigious Million Dollars Club for achieving over a million dollars in membership sales during his career with the State Chamber/AIA.
Andrew Parker Named to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

State Chamber/AIA Director of Governmental Affairs Andrew Parker was named to a seven-year term on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission by former Gov. Mike Beebe in early July. Parker, an Eagle Scout, is the former attorney for the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission. He also spent more than three years as Beebe’s liaison to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and 13 other state agencies, boards and commissions.

Disaster Assistance/Resources Small Business Forum Held in August

A 2014 Arkansas Small Business Forum – “Disaster Assistance/Resources – Important Things Your Business Should Know” was held on August 21 in the Bob Lamb Conference Room of the State Chamber Building in Little Rock.

The forum was designed for trade associations and stakeholder groups representing the small business self-employed taxpayer. Attendees received information regarding disaster assistance and resources available after a presidential disaster declaration has been issued from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Voluntary Drug-Free Workplace Program Held at State Chamber Office

Pat Hart of the Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission (AWCC) presented the Voluntary Drug-Free Workplace Program on June 4 in the State Chamber/AIA Bob Lamb Conference Room.

The Voluntary Drug-Free Workplace Program, which was established by the Arkansas Legislature by Act 1552 of 1999, provides a five percent premium credit on workers’ compensation insurance premiums to all Arkansas employers that establish a drug-free workplace that meets the criteria set down in AWCC Rule 099.36.

State Chamber/AIA Leads Second Discover China Trip

The State Chamber/AIA organized and led a Second Discover China Trip October 4-13. Director of Governmental Affairs Andrew Parker led the group.
State Chamber/AIA Members Step Up, Set Example for Disaster Relief

Various State Chamber/AIA member businesses stepped up to assist survivors of the deadly tornado that struck Central Arkansas April 27th, leaving 15 people dead and causing extensive damage. Relief efforts included meals, truckloads of food, ice and other supplies, major monetary donations, and employee volunteer efforts to clean up the area and help rebuild structures.

The State Chamber/AIA profiled and publicized the efforts of those State Chamber/AIA member organizations over a time span of several weeks and encouraged other members to support disaster relief efforts in Central Arkansas by contacting the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Holly Wilson Named Director of Arkansas State Chamber Foundation

Holly Wilson was named Director of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Foundation in mid-November. She will be responsible for conducting research, policy development and education, public speaking, fundraising, and educating the business community about the Arkansas civil justice system’s economic impact.

Prior to joining the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Wilson worked as the Communications Director for the Republican Party of Arkansas for the 2014 election cycle.

A native of Osceola, Arkansas, Wilson attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where she received a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a focus on Economics in 2007. She then went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2010. Wilson has been an active member of the Arkansas Bar since 2011.

After law school, Wilson moved to Washington, D.C. to work in the office of U.S. Senator John Boozman where she served as Professional Staff/Counsel on the Senate Commerce Committee through January 2013. She then held the position of Legislative Assistant in the office of Sen. Boozman advancing legislative goals related to judiciary, government reform and oversight, law enforcement, commerce, space and science before returning home to Arkansas in September 2013.
Leadership Arkansas Graduates
Class VIII, Begins Class IX

Leadership Arkansas Class VIII, which was presented by ARcare and sponsored by Southland Park Gaming and Racing and Walmart Stores Inc., continued its sessions in 2014 at El Dorado, Bentonville, West Memphis/Jonesboro and North Little Rock/Jacksonville. C. Tad Bohannon, chief legal counsel at Central Arkansas Water, served as Leadership Arkansas Class VIII chairman.

Class VIII
Class VIII

Daniel Barnes  
McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Diane Betts  
Southern Arkansas University Tech

Joel Blansett  
Nabholz Construction Services

Sharon Burdine  
Simmons First National Corporation

Lance Carrier  
Iberia Bank

Meredith Covington  
Southern Bancorp Community Partners

Donnie Crain  
Arkansas National Guard

Cynthia Davis  
NCTR

Steve Eddington  
Arkansas Farm Bureau

Ben France  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Chris Gibson  
AFCare

Sarah Gordley  
Springdale Chamber of Commerce

Don Hann  
Southland Park Gaming & Racing

Jon Ross Henderson  
First Security Bank

Amanda Horton  
University of Central Arkansas

Mervin Jbaraj  
Center for Business and Economic Research

Jason Jones  
Arkadelphia Promise Scholarship Foundation

T.J. LeFler  
Sage Partners, LLC

Christina Lusk  
East Harding

Mike Malone  
Northwest Arkansas Council

Eddie Martin  
Coulson Oil Company, Inc./Coulson Real Estate Group, LLC

Nicole May  
ValueOptions

Greg Modica  
Government Supply Services LLC

Chris Neeley  
Made in USA Works

Keisha Pittman  
Fellowship Bible Church NWA

Dennis Rittle  
Ozarks College

Ben Robbins  
DataPath Administrative Services

Rob Seay  
Cromwell Architects Engineers, Inc.

Jonathan Semans  
CDI Contractors, LLC

Mike Shaw  
Cardinal Health

Sha’ Stephens  
Arkansas Statewide Independent Living Council

Elizabeth Underwood  
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

Katherine Vasilos  
Arkansas House of Representatives

Marc Verbos  
AimcoR Group, LLC

Jon Vestal  
Lyon College

Don Wilborne  
Garver
Leadership Arkansas Class IX Selects 35 Individuals

Thirty-five individuals from throughout the state were selected for Leadership Arkansas Class IX. Leadership Arkansas Class IX is presented by ARcare. Class IX sponsors include Southland Park Gaming & Racing and Walmart Stores, Inc.

Leadership Arkansas Class IX began with a Retreat Session – Session I Tourism on October 5-7 at Lake Dardanelle near Russellville. Other sessions during 2014 included Session II – Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting/Mock Legislative Session on November 12-13 and Session III – Manufacturing/Workforce, December 11-12 in Batesville.

Class IX

Mark Beach
CDI Contractors, LLC
Leigh Ann Biernat
Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau
April Campbell
Mike Ross for Governor Campaign
Ryan Dagley
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Xochitl Delgado
Walmart Compliance
Joe Eick
The Country Club of Little Rock
Carrie Fortune
ARcare
Tannica Gamble
Tan Construction
Marq Golden
City of Little Rock
Paul Hively
Nabholz Construction Services
Colinda Howard
Walmart Compliance
Ivan Hudson
The Ivan Hudson Agency
Tionna Jenkins
Bill, Hilary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation
Crystal Johnson
Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce
Mircha King
Southern Bancorpa
Annie Kratkiewicz
Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
Todd Kuhn
Cromwell Architects Engineers
Mandy Lloyd
Con-way Manufacturing
Charlie McConnell
Farm Credit Western Arkansas
Shannon Mirus
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
Eyona Mitchell
Jan Pro
John Monroe
Simmons Bank
Brandon Morris
Union Pacific Railroad
Todd Mueller
Garver
Nate Noble
Arkansas Department of Health
Shawn Prince
Prince Investments
Gina Radke
Galley Support Innovations
Kimberly Rhodes
Nucor Steel - Arkansas
Kymara Seals
Office of Senator Mark Pryor
Ron Sellers
ARcare
Jake Sligh
Arkansas Business Publishing Group
Elizabeth Solano
Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO)
Tom Stevens
CenterPoint Energy
Stoke Stokenbury
CR Crawford Construction LLC
Matt Sullivan
Alternative Opportunities, Inc.
Whitney Wellborn
Arkansas Foodbank
Robert White
Southern Arkansas University Technical College
Harry Willems
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
John Wintermantel
Southland Park Gaming and Racing

Leadership Arkansas Class IX attendees listen to a presentation by Katherine Vasilos and Jordan Johnson

A class member poses a question during the State Chamber Annual Meeting leadership session
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Leadership Arkansas is a program of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas. (501) 372-2222 • www.arkansasstatechamber.com

Who We Are

Leadership Arkansas is a program designed to take a statewide view of the economic and political challenges that face our great state. Leadership Arkansas offers leadership opportunities that expand the impact of community leaders across the state. Created by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, Inc., Leadership Arkansas builds a sense of statewide community by identifying and training individuals with the passion and commitment to become personally engaged in issues, programs and activities aimed at building a Better Arkansas.

What We Offer

To build a strong, diverse statewide network of leaders with a shared commitment to connect our communities and to make Arkansas a better place in which to live and prosper.

How The Program Works

Leadership Arkansas’s mission is to build a strong, diverse, statewide network of leaders with a shared commitment to connect our communities and to make Arkansas a better place in which to live and prosper.

One of the many ways the organization is working to accomplish that mission is through its annual class program. Class members are chosen to participate in a stimulating and thought-provoking educational program that consists of a series of six day-and-a-half sessions held in locations throughout the state. These sessions include programming on issues critical to Arkansas, leadership skills assessment, and relevant information on Arkansas’s history, demography, diversities and opportunities.

Participants are required to attend at least 80 percent of the program sessions, including the entire opening retreat session, which is mandatory.

Leadership Arkansas Class VIII members listen to testimony during the Mock Legislative Session at the State Capitol.

Andrew Parker and Angela DeLille address Leadership Arkansas Class VIII prior to the Annual Meeting.
New Pinnacle Members Announced for 2014

The State Chamber/AIA is pleased to recognize the following Pinnacle members who are new or upgraded their status for 2014:

Crown:
- Anthony Timberlands Inc.
- Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
- Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH)
- Central Moloney Inc
- Farm Credit Services of Arkansas
- Made in USA Consulting
- Mainstream Technologies, Inc.
- Novus Arkansas, LLC
- Simmons First National Corporation
- Snyder Environmental

The Pinnacle Program is an active group of member firms and organizations whose senior representatives provide financial support and leadership to the State Chamber/AIA. Pinnacle members actively participate in our grassroots action network, testify before legislative committees when needed, work on State Chamber/AIA policy committees or lead the organization as board members.

Levels of investment include $5,000 (Crown), $10,000 (Peak), $25,000 (Summit) and $35,000 and up (Apex). Benefits of Pinnacle membership include recognition in State Chamber/AIA printed publications, e-publications and on our web site; special recognition at all State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events, such as the Annual Meeting and the Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner; prominent coverage in the Annual Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide, and networking opportunities with other high-level Arkansas business and industry leaders.
Welcome to the following new members who joined the State Chamber/AIA in 2014

Access Credit Management, Inc.
All American Poly
Allen Engineering
Allied Electrical and Power, Inc.
Aluma-Weld, Inc.
American Express
American Material Handling Co. Inc.
American Railcar Industries
American Structure Repair
AmeriPride Linen & Apparel Services
AMR Architects Inc.
AMR Construction LLC
Anthony Timberlands, Inc.
CTS, LLC/dba Apple Spice Junction
Arkansas Automatic Gates
Arkansas Construction Education Foundation
Arkansas Employees Federal Credit Union
Arkansas Equipment Manufacturers Inc.
Arkansas Food Bank
AR Health Insurance Marketplace
Arkansas Job Corps-Odle Management
Arkansas Pain Centers, Ltd.
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division
Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences & the Arts
Arkansas Spinal Cord Foundation
Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department
Arkansas Tech University College of Business
Argenta Limo, LLC
ASI (Agricultural Services, Inc.)
Assembled Products Corporation
Audubon Arkansas
Barnhart Crane & Rigging Co.
Baumans Men’s Fine Clothing
The Benfield Group, PLLC
Bentonville Mold & Die, Inc.
Bentonville Plastics, Inc.
POW, Inc. dba Beyond Cotton
Birch Tree Communities
Black Corley Owens & Hughes
Callahan Real Estate Inc.
Cardiac Staffing, LLC
CareLink
Carlton-Bates Company
Carroll Electric Cooperative Corporation
CBM Construction, Inc.
CEI Engineering Associates, Inc.
The Chancellor Hotel
Chenal Heating & Air Inc.
Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation
Comfort Inn & Suites
Community First Bank
Conley Graphics
Country Inn & Suites
Crawford & Associates
Creative Graphics, Inc.
Darragh Company
Davis Rubber Company, Inc.
Diamond Medical Equipment & Supply, Inc.
Disability Rights Center of Arkansas (DRC)
Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Arkansas
DC Adventures LLC
dba Dugan’s Pub
Ed’s Supply Co.
Elliott Electric Supply
England Fabrication & Oil Field Services
Few
First Class Communication
First State Bank
FirstLight Home Care
Flakeboard Arauco-NA
FYG - Consulting, LLC
Girl Scouts-Diamonds of AR, OK & TX
Marchant & Reese Hotels, LLC
dba Guesthouse Inn
Haas Factory Outlet/Division of Jeffreys Mfg Solutions
Hancock Staffing
Paul Harvel, Chamber of Commerce
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Hotfoot Transportation LLC
Hubbell Lighting
Humana
Hydco, Inc.
Ideal Construction Co.
Imperial Inc.
Interstate SignWays
ITC Great Plains
Jason International Inc.
Joyce Dees & Associates
Keith, Miller, Butler, Schneider & Pawlik, PLLC
Ketcher & Co., Inc.
Landscape Associates, LLC
La Quinta Inn & Suites
Ledbetter, Cogbill, Arnold & Harrison LLP
Legacy Equipment
Lifeplus International
The Little Rock Club
LuxuryLav
Lynda Bowers and Associates Realtors, Inc.
Made in USA Works!
Med-Tech of Conway County Inc.
MISO
Mitchell Communications Group LLC
Mulhearn Wilson Constructors
Mundo-Tech, Inc.
NanoMech, Inc.
National HVAC Service
Neal Moore Creative
NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge
Nexans Americable
Northwest Technical Institute
The Peacock Group
Pediatrics Plus
Pella Window & Door Co.
Pratt & Whitney, Inc.
Pro Med Ambulance, Inc.
Professional Forms & Supplies, Inc.
Reed’s Metals, Inc.
Reliance Bank, N.A.
Rogers Iron & Metal Corporation
The RSI Group, LLC
Sagely Solutions, LLC
S-C Seasoning Company, Inc.
SeaArk Boats
SEAL Corporation
dba Seal Energy Solutions
Sherwood Chamber of Commerce
SIA Tech Charter High School
Sir Speedy Print
Snyder Environmental
South Arkansas Community College
Southern Cast Products, Inc.
Southwest Arkansas Electric Cooperative
Staffing Association of Arkansas
Stant USA Corporation
Stateside Steel and Wire, LLC
Stockton Medical Group
Summit Consulting
Summit Truck Group of Little Rock
Super Duty Boat Docks & Boat Lifts
TAC Air
Tate & Associates
Tenenbaum Recycling Group, LLC
Travel Nurse Across America, LLC
Triplex, Inc.
UHS Inc. of AR
Wall Specialties Drywall & Painting, Inc.
White-Daters & Associates, Inc.
The following members and organizations sponsored State Chamber/AIA events in 2014.

Acadia Health Care Arkansas  
Axxiom Corporation  
Arkansas Economic Developers  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
Arkansas Environmental Federation  
AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company  
Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation  
AFCO Steel, LLC  
AGC Arkansas  
AIPRO  
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation  
Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association  
Arkansas Automobile Dealers Association  
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Arkansas Broadcasters Association  
Arkansas Business Publishing Group  
The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group  
Arkansas Community Colleges  
Arkansas Credit Union League  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Arkansas Good Roads/Transportation Council  
Arkansas Health Care Association  
Arkansas Hospital Association  
Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities  
Arkansas Lears  
Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association  
Arkansas Municipal League  
Arkansas Petroleum Council  
Arkansas State Dental Association  
Arkansas Tech University College of Business  
Arkansas Timber Producers Association  
Arkansas Transit Association Inc.  
ARcare  
Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber of Commerce  
Arvest Bank  
Ash Grove Cement Company  
Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas  
ASU System  
AT&T Arkansas  
Baldor Electric Company  
BHP Billiton  
BKD, LLP  
Brent Stevenson Associates  
Bridgestone Americas  
Tube Business  
Cameron  
Canon Solutions America  
Capitol Partners LLC  
Caterpillar Inc.  
CBM Construction, Inc.  
CDI Contractors LLC  
CenterPoint Energy  
Central Moloney Inc.  
CenturyLink  
Great Lakes Solutions-A Chemtura Business  
Clean Line Energy  
Clearwater Paper Corporation  
Conway Corporation  
Cooper-Tire & Rubber Company  
Cox Communications  
Cross County Chamber of Commerce/Wynne EDC  
Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.  
Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.  
Deltic Timber Corporation  
Domtar  
Dover Dixon Home PLLC  
E. Ritter & Company  
E.C. Barton & Company  
El Dorado Chemical Company  
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas  
The Empire District Electric Company  
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.  
Evergreen Packaging Co.  
Farm Credit Services of AR  
Ferstl Valuation Services  
First Arkansas Bank & Trust  
First Community Bank  
First National Bank of Fort Smith  
Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Fuller Enterprises  
FutureFuel Chemical Company  
Gar-Bro Manufacturing Company  
Gerdau  
Government Solutions, LLC  
Haas Factory Outlet/Division of Jeffreys Mfg Solutions  
Hanesbrands, Inc.  
Hargraves Consulting LLC  
Paul Harvel, Chamber of Commerce  
Hewlett Packard Company  
Hiland Dairy  
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce  
Hutchinson Financial, Inc.  
Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas  
Institute for Economic Advancement  
International Paper Company  
inVentas Research & Consulting, Inc.  
Kiswire Pine Bluff, Inc.  
Kutak Rock LLP  
Langston Companies Inc.  
Liberty Mutual Insurance  
Lion Oil Company  
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control  
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Martin Wilbourn Partners LLC  
McKee Foods Corporation  
Mitchell Williams Selig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC  
Mullenix & Associates, LLC  
Murphy USA Inc.  
Nabholz Construction Services  
Nucor  
Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport  
Pace Industries  
Paschall Strategic Communications  
Pernod Ricard-USA  
The Poultry Federation  
Razorbac Concrete Company Inc.  
Regions Insurance  
Riceland Foods Inc.  
Rockline Industries  
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rose Law Firm  
Southeast Arkansas College  
Signature Bank of Arkansas  
Simmons First National Corporation  
SourceGas Arkansas Inc.  
Southland Park Gaming & Racing  
Southwestern Energy Company  
Sparks Health System  
Stant USA Corporation  
Stephens Inc.  
Stephens Production Company  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
U of A Sam Walton College of Business Administration  
University of Arkansas System  
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
UALR  
UAMS  
U.S. Bank  
Verizon Wireless  
Virco Manufacturing Corporation  
Viskase Corporation  
Walmart Stores Inc.  
Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas, Inc.  
Williams Strategic  
Winrock International  
Witt O’Brien’s LLC  
Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation  
Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP  
XTO Energy, Inc.
The State Chamber/AIA has expanded its presence throughout Arkansas by affiliating with the following statewide organizations:

**Governor’s Quality Award**

- The Governor’s Quality Award (GQA) Program formed a working partnership with the State Chamber/AIA in 2008 and has an office in the State Chamber/AIA building. The organizations work together to accomplish the GQA’s program vision of contributing to the success of Arkansas organizations and the communities they serve.
- The GQA Program offers training opportunities for participants to learn how to use the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence to assess strategy and process alignment for increased performance. Those that choose to apply for an award receive an evaluation of their management systems in a written-feedback report citing strengths and areas for improvement and are recognized by the Governor at an annual awards ceremony.
- This process is used by all types of businesses, health care, schools and government agencies, and all kinds of organizations, including non-profit.
- While other programs may focus on a single aspect such as leadership, strategic planning, or process management, the Governor’s Quality Award (GQA) Program focuses on helping you develop an integrated management framework that addresses all the factors that define your organization, its operations and its results.
- Utilizing GQA can help you:
  - Jumpstart change initiatives
  - Energize improvement strategies
  - Focus your organizations on common goals
  - Assess performance against the competition
  - Align your resources with your strategic objectives

**Program opportunities include:**

**Regional Self-Assessment and Applicant Training Seminars**
- Provides training on use of the Criteria for Performance Excellence as process for self-assessment or writing an application for program award and recognition

**Examiner Training**
- Teaches analytical skills used to assess applications for award and write feedback report to applicant
- Provides examiner unique perspective that contributes to the success of your organization

**Challenge Seminars**
- Industry specific seminars for manufacturing, healthcare and business
- Provides seminars regionally throughout the state in partnership with local partners

**Benchmark Tours**

**Award Application**
- Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence
- Achievement Award
- Commitment Award
- Challenge Award

For further information about the GQA Program, contact Executive Director Sue Wetter at 501-372-2222. Additional information about all opportunities the program provides is also available on the GQA website at www.arkansas-quality.org.
Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)

ACCE is a professional, statewide organization of Chamber of Commerce executives in more than 100 Arkansas communities as well as business and professional organizations interested in or allied with chamber of commerce work in Arkansas.

The purpose of ACCE is to enhance the professional development and managerial skills of its members; to keep its membership appraised of statewide and national trends that affect the membership’s ability to operate effectively within their individual communities; and to maintain liaisons with state agencies and business organizations including the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, State Chamber/AIA, The Arkansas Partnership, American Chamber of Commerce Executives and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The State Chamber/AIA is actively involved with services to local chambers including:
- Association management for the ACCE
- Strategic planning sessions
- Personnel selection assistance
- Volunteer leadership training
- Board retreats and goal setting
- Board orientation
- New executive support
- Governmental relations
- New facility planning
- Assistance with developing new programs
- Assistance with starting new chambers
- Membership development
- Total resource campaigns
- Chamber library

Arkansas Economic Developers (AED)

AED is an association of professional and volunteer economic developers in the state of Arkansas whose purpose is advancing, through professional and educational efforts, the quality of life in Arkansas by the development of employment opportunities through economic growth and community development.

Membership in AED provides an opportunity to participate in numerous activities that center around efforts to educate the economic developer in a rapidly changing field.
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For more than 50 years, The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group has partnered with organizations and businesses throughout Arkansas to help generate and grow economic opportunities.

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