



**Jan. 30 – Feb. 3, 2017**

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### **Save the Date: Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner March 15**

Arkansas leaders in business, non-profit, post-secondary education and the public sector are invited to join us for the **58<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner** presented by [Stephens Inc.](#), which will take place March 15 in Washington, D.C.

One of our signature events, the annual Washington Fly-In provides a unique opportunity for Arkansas's private and public sector leaders to meet with members of our Congressional delegation, their staffs and other Congressional members in addition to meeting with other business and community leaders.

We have a full day planned on March 15 beginning with a breakfast briefing at the U.S. Chamber office at 1615 H Street NW, scheduled group meetings throughout the day on Capitol Hill with all six members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, and ending with dinner at Hill Country BBQ in the District.

The evening event is set for 6:30 p.m., affording the opportunity for more “face time” with the Congressional delegates and their staffs in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Each of the members of the Arkansas delegation will make remarks.

### **Why attend?**

Your knowledge and expertise about your business and industry are invaluable in educating those who set the nation’s policies – Congress. There’s no better way to participate early in key discussions and educate policymakers about your business than to do so in person. This is your opportunity to advocate for corporate tax reform, comprehensive immigration policies, etc. that will allow the private sector to grow business and create jobs.

Please join us in Washington, D.C., March 15, and *make a difference*.

### **Register now.**

Click [here](#) for a registration form that also includes specific benefits of sponsorship.

### **Hotel Accommodations**

There will not be a host hotel for this year’s Fly-In as there are no scheduled activities at a specific hotel. **Please make your own hotel reservations** based on your preferences, but we do offer the following suggestions:

- **The Hotel George**, 15 E Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
- **Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol**, 1225 First Street NE, Washington, District of Columbia, 20002
- **Hyatt Place Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol**, 33 New York Avenue NE Washington, D.C., USA, 20002

We would also like to thank and recognize our other sponsors:

Dinner – **Nucor Arkansas** and **Southland Park Gaming and Racing**

Beverage – **Entergy Arkansas, Inc.** and **Nabholz Construction Services**

Gold – **Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation**, **AEP Swepco**, **America’s Car-Mart, Inc.**, **Central Moloney Inc.**, **International Paper Company**, **Southwest Power Pool, Inc.** and **Walmart Stores Inc.**

Silver- **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas** and **Great Lakes Solutions / A Chemtura Business**

### **Interested in sponsoring this event?**

If you’d like to help sponsor this signature event, please contact Bill Watson at 501-802-1740 or [bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com).

For more information on the Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner, contact Holly Wilson at [hwilson@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:hwilson@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 870-622-7162.

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## **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.

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## **Please Join Us: Hiring Our Heroes Little Rock Hiring Fair on March 30**

Join local and national employers from 1 – 4 p.m. Thursday, March 30 at the Walters Community Support Center at Building 940 on Arnold Drive on the Little Rock Air Force Base for the Hiring Our Heroes/Little Rock AFB Spring Career Fair open to veterans, military service members, guard, reserve and military spouses. Jobs will be available for all ranks and levels of experience.

Besides the Hiring Fair, other featured events of the day will include a “Career Fair Strategies” class from 8 – 9 a.m.; an Employer Panel from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., and a “Brunch & Learn” presentation for employers from 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

For more information on the Little Rock Hiring Fair or to register as an employer or job candidate, click [here](#).

This U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s “Hiring Our Heroes” event is being conducted in partnership with the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Little Rock AFB, the U. S. Chamber Foundation, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the State Chamber/AIA, the Arkansas Committee Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

E-mail Ernie Lombardi at [elombardi@uschamber.com](mailto:elombardi@uschamber.com) with any questions.

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## **Save the Date for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon on May 4**

Save the date for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon presented by [DataPath](#), which will be held from 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites Hotel in west Little Rock in conjunction with Small Business Week. The Small Business Awards Luncheon honors the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Arkansas Small Business Persons of the Year.

John Burgess, president & CEO of Mainstream Technologies, Inc., will be the keynote speaker and Roby Brock, president of Talk Business & Politics/Natural State Media, will be the Emcee.

We would like to thank and recognize the following 2017 Small Business Awards Luncheon sponsors:

**Business Leader – The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group and Entergy Arkansas**

**Table – Arkansas Business Publishing Group, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Arvest Bank, CenterPoint Energy and Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas**

**Partner – Vision IT Consultants**

Individual tickets to the event cost \$45 and tables of eight cost \$400. To purchase a ticket or a table, click [here](#).

If your company or organization would like to help sponsor the 2017 Small Business Awards Luncheon, please contact Bill Watson at [bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-802-1740.

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## **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 [Entergy Arkansas, Inc.](#), [Farm Credit of Arkansas](#), [Nucor Steel-Arkansas](#), and [Walmart](#).

Other planned sessions include:

**Session VI:** Education  
March 30-31, Hot Springs  
Sponsored by the **Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts** and **Seiz Signs**.

**Session VII:** Regional Development  
April 20-21, Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville  
Sponsored by **Black Hills Energy, Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, Northwest Technical Institute** and **Signature Bank of Arkansas**

**Session VIII:** Leadership, Planning & Graduation  
May 18-19, Little Rock  
Sponsored **AEP/Swepeco, CenterPoint Energy** 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](mailto: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](mailto:aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-372-2222.

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## **Join Us!**

The 2017 Legislative Reception was our best yet! Not only did we have record attendance, but we had even more State Chamber/AIA members step up to support our Political Action Committees (PACs) as a result of the event!

Our PACs are the best vehicles to communicate the business community's goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to those running for, and currently holding political office. Our momentum is not going unnoticed by our elected officials, many of which joined us under the big tent.

If your company hasn't already, will you please JOIN US and make a donation to ASCC PAC or AIA PAC today? Just click [here](#) for more information on the PACs and how to make a donation!

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## **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](http://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 Weatter at [sweatter@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:sweatter@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.

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## **Sign Up for State Chamber/AIA Staples Business Advantage Discount Program**

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](mailto:sshort@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-210-4206.

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### **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.

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## **Register Now for the 2017 Blue & You Fitness Challenge Contest**

Register now 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.

**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](http://www.blueandyoufitnesschallenge-ark.com).

Beginning in March, participants can log their activity on the Challenge's website, [www.blueandyoufitnesschallenge-ark.com](http://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 based 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

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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:

**Bridgestone Americas Tube Business**  
**Courtyard by Marriott**  
**Marianna-Lee County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Risk Services/Insurica**  
**Scott Equipment**  
**U.S. Pizza Co. Inc.**

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### **Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members**

We would like to thank and recognize **Bridgestone Americas Tube Business** for recently upgrading their AIA membership to the Crown Pinnacle level and to **U.S. Pizza Co. Inc.** for recently upgrading their State Chamber membership to the Crown Pinnacle level.

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](mailto: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 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  
Bridgestone Americas Tube Business  
Bryce Corporation  
Caterpillar Inc.  
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**  
**Kimbel 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**  
**U.S. Pizza Co. Inc.**  
**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**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| February 2     | Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar<br>Registration Closed – Full Capacity<br>11 a.m.- 1 p.m.<br>Bob Lamb Conference Room<br>State Chamber Building<br>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 15         58<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly-In and Congressional Dinner  
Washington, D.C.
- 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             27<sup>th</sup> 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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