



February 13 – 17, 2017

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Register Now for the 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 **58th 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.

Register now.

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

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*.

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 – **AT&T Arkansas**, **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- **Cross County Chamber of Commerce/Wynne EDC**, **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.

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

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State Chamber/AIA Unveils New Web Site

The State Chamber/AIA recently unveiled our new web site. Features include a more streamlined look and mobile compatibility. Check it out at <http://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/>.

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

Session VII: Regional Development
April 20-21, Fayetteville, Springdale & Bentonville, Arkansas
Sponsored by **Black Hills Energy, McKee Foods Corporation, Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, Northwest Technical Institute, Signature Bank of Arkansas** and **The Empire District Electric Company**

Session VIII: Leadership, Planning & Graduation
May 18-19, Little Rock, Arkansas
Sponsored by **AEP/Swepco, CenterPoint Energy, Regions Insurance** and **W&W/AFCO Steel LLC**

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

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

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

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Medical Marijuana: Your Employees and the Law

Thursday, March 16, 2017 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

With the passage and implementation of Arkansas's Medical Marijuana Amendment, it is critical that employers understand their rights and obligations under the amendment and how such rights and obligations will impact employees.

In this session, attorneys from the Roberts Law Firm, P.A. will discuss the implementation of Arkansas's new medical marijuana amendment and its effects on various aspects of employment law. Attorneys from the firm will present an analysis of the current law and address employment-related compliance issues, such as:

- Rights and Responsibilities of Patients under the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment
- Tension with Federal Law
- How the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment impacts the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Medical Marijuana and Workers Compensation
- Update regarding state medical marijuana legislation for employers

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

Session leaders:

J. Matthew Mauldin, partner, has practiced since 1998. The primary focus of his practice at Roberts Law Firm is the defense of workers' compensation claims before the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Arkansas Court of Appeals. In doing so, he has represented various employers involved in manufacturing and production, retail, construction, food services, and county governments as well as national insurance carriers.

Jeremy Swearingen, partner, has practiced since 1999. Mr. Swearingen's practice includes defense representation and trial litigation for various types of cases, including: personal injury, premises liability, products liability and breach of warranty/contract disputes and trade secrets/breach of confidentiality claims and workers' compensation.

Karen Halbert, partner, practice consists of a wide variety of complex business litigation including antitrust and data breach class actions. Additionally, Ms. Halbert practices commercial real estate law. Before entering law school, Ms. Halbert was Vice President of Development for an international software company where she was extensively involved in software development methodologies, database architecture, technology contract negotiations, and corporate management.

George Ernst, partner, provides legal advice to businesses on Employment and Labor issues, including discrimination complaints, EEOC complaints and best practices. Additionally, Mr. Ernst provides legal advice on Business Immigration issues, including the EB-5 Immigrant Investor program, Treaty Trader and Treaty Investor Visas, Temporary Employment Visas, Employment Green Cards, J-1 Waivers for Medical Professionals and Employer I-9 and E-Verify Compliance.

Sarah Slocum Collins is an Associate at Roberts Law Firm and Vice President of Government Relations for Roberts Group. Mrs. Collins provides strategic government relations advice to business clients within the industries of healthcare, utilities, financing and technology.

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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, Building 940, Arnold Drive, 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 <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/little-rock-hiring-fair-0>.

This U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s “Hiring Our Heroes” event is being presented in partnership with Hiring Our Heroes, Little Rock AFB Airman and Family Readiness Center, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), Arkansas Committee Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), the 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 with any questions.

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Save the Date for the 27th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon on May 4th

Save the date for the 27th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon presented by [DataPath](#), which will be held from 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Thursday, May 4th 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 or 501-802-1740.

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ASCC and AIA PACs Funding Continues to Increase – Donate Now!

Just this past week we've received almost \$10,000 for our PACs! You are making a difference in what we have been able to do with those funds, and we are confident it IS MAKING a difference for the business community during this legislative session.

This is the first year that we can remember where there are more bills that we are FOR as opposed to having to work AGAINST. We firmly believe some of that is because of relationships we have been able to build with this class of Legislators.

Please join your colleagues in making a donation to ASCC PAC or AIA PAC today if you haven't already. Just click [here](#) to donate to ASCC PAC or [here](#) to donate to AIA PAC.

As a reminder, businesses can no longer make political donations directly to candidates, but you CAN donate to our PACs which then represent your business interests. Feel free to contact Holly Wilson at 501-372-2222 with any questions.

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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 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.

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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 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. this 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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AEDC's Manufacturing Solutions Hosting Exporting Seminar

Manufacturing Solutions, a department of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Existing Business Resource Division, will host a series of three ExporTech workshops to help leaders from four to eight companies develop customized export plans. Three sessions will be held over 12 weeks beginning on March 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pulaski Technical College – Business and Industry Center, 3303 E. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock. The remaining workshops will be held on April 12 and May 10.

ExporTech is intended for small and mid-sized product companies and is aimed at both new-to-exporting as well as those companies with some export experience who wish to expand global opportunities. Attendees will learn export strategies and best practices, mechanics of exporting, and how to create an export growth plan. The workshop's content is customized to the specific needs of each participant.

Registration is \$1,750 per company with reimbursement of some of the expenses upon completion of the class series, in addition to reimbursement U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Key-related expense reimbursement by the Arkansas World Trade Center. When registering for the workshop, it is requested you register only one representative from each company. Manufacturing Solutions will contact participating companies to obtain a list of all attendees. For more information or to register, <http://www.mfgsolutions.org/event/exportech/>.

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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:

Apprentice Information Systems
Corporate Insight Strategy
Edafio Technology Partners
Manhattan Road & Bridge Company

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Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

We would like to thank and recognize **Manhattan Road & Bridge Company** for recently joining the Arkansas State Chamber as a Crown level Pinnacle member.

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 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.
Manhattan Road & Bridge Company
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 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 58th 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 27th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Embassy Suites Hotel
Little Rock
- May 18-19 Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session VIII
Leadership, Planning & Graduation
Little Rock

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