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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Leadership ................................................................. 6
Governmental Affairs......................................................... 8
Events/Outreach/Initiatives .............................................. 18
Manufacturing/Industry/Workforce Development .......... 26
Committees........................................................................ 30
Marketing/Sales/Awards..................................................... 32
Leadership Arkansas.......................................................... 34
Pinnacle Program Members............................................... 40
New Members................................................................... 42
Thanks to Our Sponsors...................................................... 43
Affiliated Organizations...................................................... 44

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas

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Little Rock, AR 72203
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www.arkansasstatechamber.com

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Snyder Environmental

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Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Vice Chairman: Phil Baldwin
Citizens Bank

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Vice Chairman: Mindy West
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Conway Corporation
Curtis Barnett  
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Communications Sales & Leasing
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Rivendell Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas
Sam Sica  
First National Bank of Fort Smith

2017 AIA Board

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Scotty Bell  
Vina Manufacturing Corporation
Russell Bragg  
OK Foods Inc.
Scott Butt  
Pace Industries
Patty Cardin  
Great Lakes Solutions-A Chemtria Business
Mark DiGiroldo  
Nucor Arkansas
Jim Draper  
Pro Windows & Door
Thomas Ethridge  
Austin Powder Company
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Novus Arkansas, LLC
Richard Flyn  
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Dover Dixon Horne, PLLC
Ken Stuckey  
Face Industries
Lynn Tatum  
Tyson Foods, Inc (Retired)
Guy Wade  
Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP

AIA Lifetime Member

Dan Woods  
Timex
State Chamber/AIA Hosts Annual Legislative Reception on April 19

The State Chamber/AIA hosted our Annual Legislative Reception on April 19 under the big tent on our parking lot. A crowd of more than 200 attended including members of the Arkansas General Assembly, Gov. Asa Hutchinson, other elected Constitutional officers, state agency heads and State Chamber/AIA members. The “Be Pro” mobile workshop, part of our workforce skills initiative, was also onsite.

Jenna Recker of Delta Dental of Arkansas, Michael Lindsey of Walmart Stores Inc. and Rich Davis of Black Hills Energy

Kelly Robbins of the Associated General Contractors of Arkansas and Roby Brock of Talk Business & Politics

Cherry Duckett and Dan Rahn of UAMS and Dick Trammell of Arvest Bank

The Be Pro Be Proud mobile unit

Charlie Clark of Martin Operating Partnership, State Sen. Bobby Pierce and Patty Cardin of Great Lakes Solutions - a Chemtura Business

Steve Ferren of the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, Tom Parker of the Arkansas Petroleum Council and Andy Miller of Southwestern Energy Company

Randy Zook, AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston, Searcy Regional Chamber President Buck Layne and Greater Hot Springs Chamber President & CEO Jim Fram

Randy Bynum of Dover Dixon Horne, Walter Bryant of CenterPoint Energy, Kenny Henderson of CenterPoint Energy and Mike Parker of Dover Dixon Horne

State Chamber/AIA Hosts Forums for State Candidates

The State Chamber/AIA hosted forums for state candidates throughout January and in February in the Bob Lamb Conference Room at the State Chamber Building in Little Rock. The events drew significant member attendance. Each candidate was allotted time to speak followed by a question-and-answer period.

Representative-Elect Jimmy Gazaway

Representative-Elect Bruce Coleman

Representative-Elect Jack Fortner

Representative-Elect Les A. Warren

Representative-Elect Jeff Williams

Representative-Elect Clint Penzo

Supreme Court Chief Justice-Elect Dan Kemp
90th General Assembly 2016 Fiscal, Special Sessions Recap

Second Special Session of the 90th General Assembly Held April 6 - 8

The second Special Session of the 90th General Assembly convened on April 6 and adjourned sine die on April 8, 2016.

The call for the second Special Session was limited to the continuation of the Arkansas private option program for Medicaid recipients, which Gov. Asa Hutchinson identified as Arkansas Works. The State Chamber/AIA supported this effort. The Legislature voted to continue the private option with changes; but actual funding of Arkansas Works required waiting for approval until the 2016 Fiscal Session.

The private option, which was created in 2013 and was set to expire at the end of 2016 before legislation was passed allowing the program to continue to be funded, uses federal Medicaid dollars to purchase private insurance for about 250,000 adult Arkansans with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

The poverty level is $11,880 in a household size of one. Hutchinson’s program, Arkansas Works, included four changes to the original private option:

- Enhancing work and work training referrals for people who benefit from the program
- Requiring those beneficiaries whose incomes are between 100-138 percent of the federal poverty level to pay $19 a month towards the cost of their insurance premiums;
- Requiring individuals who can obtain health insurance through their employers to do so rather than rely on the government program
- Reducing costs and making the program more responsible with taxpayer dollars.

2016 Fiscal Session Passes DHS Appropriation Including Arkansas Works

The 2016 Fiscal Session convened on April 13 and concluded on May 5. Members returned on May 9 to officially sine die.

The 2016 Fiscal Session covered the appropriation for the Department of Human Services, Division of
Medical Services for 2016-17, which included funding for the Arkansas Works program. The State Chamber/AIA actively supported Arkansas Works and published a letter in support of the program that was signed by more than 145 businesses.

Both the House and the Senate passed SB121, the DHS appropriation that included funding for the Arkansas Works program. As amended, SB121 required Arkansas Works to end on Dec. 31, 2016. However, Gov. Hutchinson line-item vetoed the proposed ending date in SB121. With the Governor's line-item veto, Arkansas Works remains in effect until Dec. 31, 2021. Neither the House nor the Senate had enough votes to override Hutchinson's line-item veto. Hutchinson said he was confident the line-item veto maneuver would survive a legal challenge.

The House and Senate also both passed the Revenue Stabilization Act, which Hutchinson signed into law before the Fiscal Session adjourned.

Third Special Session of 90th General Assembly Held from May 19 – 23.

A third Special Session of the 90th General Assembly was held from May 19 - 23. The Special Session included compromise legislation, for which the State Chamber/AIA strongly advocated, allowing the Workers' Compensation Commission's Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund to continue to pay claims, above the employers' retention amount, until June 30, 2019 and limit the premium tax to 1.5 percent (previously 3 percent), when the Fund's claims are paid. The legislation was passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by Gov. Hutchinson.

The Special Session also included legislation funding $50 million for highway projects to allow the state to gain $200 million in federal matching dollars, which the State Chamber/AIA strongly supported. The highway bill, which was passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by Gov. Hutchinson, will not raise any taxes. The main source of state revenue will be dedicating up to 25 percent of the state budget surplus. Based on the average over the past 10 years, that will be $48 million.

National Issues

During 2016, the State Chamber/AIA engaged in the following national issues with our Congressional Delegation and appropriate federal and state governmental representatives in multiple ways including face-to-face contacts, letters with other organizations, joining in amicus briefs and enlisting our membership in grass roots contacts:

- National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
  * Ambush elections
  * Employee access to email systems
  * Joint employers
  * Economic Strikers Permanent Replacement

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  * Clean Power Plan
  * Carbon dioxide emissions rules
    » Existing sources
    » New sources
  * Waters of the U.S.
  * Mercury Pollution Rule
  * Ozone Rule
  * Methane Emissions
  * Regional Haze

- Department of Labor (DOL)
  * Overtime rule
  * Union Persuader Rule

- Department of Justice (DOJ)
  * Employment Discrimination Rule

- Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)
  * Silica Exposure Rule
  * Injury and Illness Reporting Requirements

- Keystone XL Pipeline

- Tax Policy/Reform

- Trade Policy
  * Trade Promotion Authority
  * Trade Agreements – Trans-Pacific Partnership
  * Corrosion-Resistant Steel Imports

- Transportation Funding

- Export-Import Bank

- Energy Policy

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
  * Net Neutrality

- Trade Customs Bill
  * Opposing Occupational Coding on Quarterly Wage Reports
State Chamber/AIA Hosts Congressional Delegation Members

State Chamber/AIA Hosts Business 101 Session for Arkansas Legislators

The State Chamber/AIA hosted Business 101 for Arkansas legislators on November 30 in the Bob Lamb Conference Room. Business 101 provided Arkansas legislators an opportunity to hear from and interact with seasoned experts on many of the issues they will encounter during the 91st General Assembly. Topics covered included Employment Law, Unemployment Insurance, Workers’ Compensation, Civil Justice, Education and Workforce Development, and Taxes.

Bruce Cross and Jennifer Chang of Cross Gunter Witherspoon & Galchus PC discuss employment law.

Randy Zook welcomes state legislators to Business 101.

Kenny Hall discusses the Arkansas Medical Marijuana amendment.

State legislators and other attendees listen to one of the presentations.
Karen McKinney of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission discusses workers' compensation.

Page Faulk of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform discusses civil justice.

Michael Moore of Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP discusses unemployment insurance.


Senate Pro Tem Jonathan Dismang and House Speaker Jeremy Gillam.
2016 Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce PAC (ASCC PAC) and Associated Industries of Arkansas PAC (AIA PAC) activity

In the fall of 2016, we created a strategic plan to exponentially grow our PACs, and began the initial implementation of that plan. Our membership gave more from October-December to the PACs than any other previous quarter. We were able to contribute more through the PACs to legislators post election but pre session than ever before, and were able to give a much larger average donation to those receiving checks than ever before.

In 2017, look for several opportunities for your company to get involved in supporting the ASCC PAC and/or the AIA PAC. Our PACs are the best vehicles for the State Chamber/AIA to help communicate the business community’s goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to those running for, and currently holding political office.

We have an aggressive goal and need you to partner with us to make meaningful, bold change in our state government. The maximum donation is $5,000 per calendar year to each PAC. With recent changes in political donation rules and regulations here in Arkansas, business entities can no longer donate directly to state candidates. Your business CAN still donate to our PACs though and we can then support candidates who best represent the business community’s interests.

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.
WHAT IS THE ASCCPAC?
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (ASCCPAC) serves as a vehicle that allows the State Chamber/AIA to help communicate the business community’s goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to those running for, and currently holding political office. We believe that the State Chamber/AIA is the best grassroots organization to drive meaningful, bold change in our government to ensure that Arkansas has the most positive business climate possible.

WHAT IS THE AIAPAC?
Associated Industries of Arkansas Political Action Committee (AIAPAC) serves as the vehicle to support those running for, and currently holding political office in Arkansas who stand up for the needs of manufacturing businesses as well as industrial businesses.

WHO FUNDS THE PACS?
Per Arkansas law, any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, company, corporation, or association may contribute to a state PAC. The donation limit is $5,000 per calendar year.

There is power in numbers... The more we raise, the greater impact we can have on important elections.

WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE MONEY RAISED?
1. Support candidates and officeholders who share our vision to grow the economic prosperity of our state, whether it be fighting for an issue that helps business, or against one that hurts our interests.
2. Provide opportunities to State Chamber/AIA members to meet candidates and learn more about where they stand on various issues so members may make an informed decision at the ballot box. At times the State Chamber/AIA will provide information for a “call to action” to its membership. The goal of these “calls to action” is to let the members’ Representatives know how business owners and businesses in the state will be affected by their decisions on an issue.

WILL ALL OF THE MONEY RAISED STAY IN ARKANSAS?
Yes. Both the State Chamber/AIA PACs are state PACs, completely focused on making a difference here in Arkansas and do not participate on the federal level.

DO THE PACS OR THE STATE CHAMBER/AIA HAVE A PARTICULAR PARTY AFFILIATION?
No. The State Chamber/AIA nor its PACs have an allegiance to a particular party. Any funding distributed will be done so on the basis of a candidate’s stance on issues relevant to the business community.

WHO DECIDES WHO WILL RECEIVE A DONATION?
There is a PAC committee that decides which candidates or elected officials will receive donations. Candidates must meet certain criteria to gain the support of our organization. The PAC committee is always open to membership feedback.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DONATION?
1. Make a check payable to ASCCPAC and/or AIAPAC and mail to PO Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203.
3. Give a percentage of your dues to the PAC when you renew your membership each year.

Thank you for partnering with the State Chamber/AIA. Together we are part of an effort to drive meaningful, bold change in our state by supporting the business community and ultimately, the economic prosperity of Arkansas.
Arkansas winners were honored at the 2016 Small Business Awards Luncheon hosted by the State Chamber/ AIA on May 3 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in West Little Rock.

Gina and Wade Radke, owners of Galley Support Innovations (GSI) of Sherwood, were honored as the Arkansas Small Business Persons of the Year. GSI, a family-owned business that has been in operation for more than 50 years, designs and manufactures interior hardware for planes, trains, yachts and more.

The following awards were also presented:

- Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Center State and Regional Award – Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center at Arkansas Tech University, Russellville.
- Small Business Exporter of the Year State and Regional Award – William Burgess of Power Technology, Inc. of Alexander.
- Women Small Business Champion of the Year – Haley Dawn Cleous of Startup Junkie Consulting of Fayetteville

- Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year – Jeff Amerine of Startup Junkie Consulting of Fayetteville
- Top 7a Lender for FY 2015 – Arvest Bank of Fayetteville
- Top Certified Development Company – Six Bridges Capital Corporation, Little Rock
- Arkansas SCORE District Chapter of the Year – Little Rock SCORE. Chapter Chair Jim Sadler also received the 2015 National SCORE Inaugural Nation Builder Award.

The crowd at the Small Business Awards Luncheon

Ernsee Roby Brock of Talk Business & Politics

The crowd at the Small Business Awards Luncheon
SBA District Director Linda Nelson, Small Business Persons of the Year Wade and Gina Radke, and State Chamber-AIA President & CEO Randy Zook

Linda Nelson, Marcus Guinn of Top 7a Lender Arvest Bank and Randy Zook

Linda Nelson, Small Business Exporter of the Year William Burgess of Power Technology, Inc. and Randy Zook

Linda Nelson, Women Small Business Person of the Year Haley Dawn Cleous of Startup Junkie Consulting and Randy Zook

Linda Nelson, Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year Jeff Amerine of Startup Junkie Consulting and Randy Zook

Linda Nelson, Arkansas SCORE District Chapter of the Year representative Jim Sadler of Little SCORE and Randy Zook
57th Annual Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner Held on May 24

The State Chamber/AIA hosted the 57th Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner on May 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Washington, D.C. and at Hill Country, a barbecue restaurant in the District.


Participants gather on the steps during the Capitol tour.


PAC Address by Joe Carter, Michael Drury Presentation Highlight Annual Meeting

A crowd of several hundred business leaders, government representatives and state agency personnel gathered at the State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting on Oct. 21 at the Little Rock Marriott to hear State Chamber Vice Chairman Joe Carter talk about the State Chamber and AIA PACs and a presentation by Michael Drury, chief economist for McVean Trading & Investments, LLC of Memphis, an international commodities firm specializing in agriculture products. Drury assesses macroeconomic developments around the world to help develop hedging strategies using futures markets in interest rates, currencies and industrial materials.

Keynote Speaker Michael Drury

Amanda Story of Hargraves Consulting, State Rep. Monte Hodges and Bradley Hardin of AEP SWEPCO

Troy Keeping of Keeping Konsulting, LLC, Michael Drury and Ray Dillon
Issues Seminars Draw Attendees Throughout Year

The State Chamber/AIA hosted a variety of Issues Seminars throughout the year that drew significant attendance.

On March 16, a “Safeguard Your Business” Lunch and Learn was held in the Bob Lamb Conference Room in Little Rock.

On June 9 in Bentonville, June 16 in Fort Smith, June 21 in Jonesboro and November 16 in Little Rock, the State Chamber/AIA offered “Arkansas Tax Traps and Found Money for Businesses and Manufacturers.”

On June 9 and July 14 in Little Rock, July 19 in Fort Smith, July 25 in Jonesboro, August 25 in Fayetteville and September 19 in Magnolia, the State Chamber/AIA offered “FLSA Overtime Rules: Get Ready for Potential Changes Coming in 2016.”

On October 24, the State Chamber/AIA offered “OSHA Recordkeeping Update and Its Effect on Employers” in the Bob Lamb Conference Room in Little Rock.

On December 6, the State Chamber/AIA offered “Basic Environmental Compliance for New and Small Manufacturers” in the Bob Lamb Conference Room in Little Rock.
We work hard to maintain the delicate balance of Mother Nature. Our goal is to preserve and protect the environment by minimizing our footprint, protecting the water and respecting the landscape. We know you expect us to be responsible neighbors. We expect the same of ourselves.

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State Chamber/AIA Announces “Be Pro Be Proud” Workforce Initiative

The State Chamber/AIA announced the launch of a new workforce initiative, “Be Pro Be Proud,” on March 8 to bring a new generation of pride, progress and professionals to Arkansas’s skilled workforce. The launch drew an audience of approximately 100 business and industry leaders.

Featured at the event, held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock were Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill, Walmart Vice President of U.S. Manufacturing Cindi Marsiglio and State Chamber/AIA President & CEO Randy Zook.

The “Be Pro Be Proud” initiative is using a mobile unit to travel the state and visit companies, schools and events to showcase skilled trade professions and broaden awareness of their impact on the state’s workforce. The “Be Pro” mobile workshop is an engaging tool that provides information about training resources, currently available positions and descriptions, skills needed, and how to start the process of starting a skilled professional career. For more information on the workforce initiative, go to BeProBeProud.org.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson addresses the crowd at the Be Pro Be Proud announcement event.

Walmart Vice President of U.S. Manufacturing Cindi Marsiglio
Attendees check out the Be Pro Be Proud mobile unit.
Cardboard cutouts of workers

Associated Industries of Arkansas Chairman Bill Reed of Riceland Foods and State Sen. Jane English

Sustainable Growth. Sound Stewardship.

Growing value for customers, shareholders and the communities served is Deltic Timber’s primary focus.

This begins with expert management of our high-quality, vertically integrated assets. We then achieve the highest and best use of Arkansas’s most abundant natural resource through environmental stewardship of our residential and commercial real estate development in strategically located areas of the state.

Deltic Timber is growing value for a growing Arkansas.
The State Chamber/AIA hosted a series of Young Manufacturers Academies (YMAs) in late July and early August at various locations around the state in partnership with Arkansas two-year colleges. The Young Manufacturers Academy (YMA) is a manufacturing-themed, experiential, five-day summer program geared toward students entering grades 7-11. The Academies introduce students to Arkansas’s high-tech, advanced manufacturing industries through hands-on activities, simulation-based learning, virtual machining environments, and travel to industry locations for on-site interaction with manufacturers. YMAs are provided through The Manufacturing Institute’s Dream It. Do It network in partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Arkansas Two-Year Colleges, and funded by the Gene Haas Foundation, Lennox Industries and other manufacturers. Participants attend the camps free of charge with transportation and lunches also provided. Locations for the 2016 YMAs included:
- Arkansas Northeastern College – Blytheville ASU-Mountain Home
- ASU-Newport
- Black River Technical College – Pocahontas Campus
- College of the Ouachitas – Malvern
- East Arkansas Community College – Forrest City
- National Park College – Hot Springs
- NorthArk Community College – Harrison
- Northwest Technical Institute – Springdale
- Phillips Community College – Stuttgart
- SAU Tech – Camden
- SouthArk Community College – El Dorado

The State Chamber/AIA again partnered with the National Association of Manufacturers in promoting Manufacturing Day 2016 on October 7 and beyond. In Arkansas, 12 Manufacturing Day events were held. For 2016, the focus was on collaboration – Arkansas local and regional economic development organizations coordinated events to connect local community colleges, local middle and high schools, parents, teachers, students and manufacturers with events such as STEP Career Fairs, manufacturing exhibitions and on-site or off-site (virtual) tours.

Manufacturing Day provides manufacturers a unique opportunity to expand the knowledge about the benefits of a career in manufacturing and demonstrates the manufacturing industry’s value to the U.S. economy.
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:

Education

Chairman:
Ken Stuckey, Pace Industries
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.

Governmental Affairs

Co-Chairmen:
Robert D. Smith, III, Attorney
Tom Kennedy, Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
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.

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:
Matt Mika, Tyson Foods, Inc.
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 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.
Tax

Chairman:
Marvin Childers,
The Poultry Federation
Co-Chairman:
Tammy Waters, Domtar
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.

Workers’ Compensation

Chairman:
Lynn Tatum,
Tyson Foods, Inc. (retired)
Co-Chairman:
Guy Wade,
Friday Eldredge & Clark, LLP

The Workers’ Compensation Committee keeps a close eye on the state’s workers’ compensation laws. During each legislative session, the State Chamber/AIA negotiates legislative issues with labor union leaders and reviews all related legislation. 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.

Unemployment Insurance/HR

Chairman:
Michael S. Moore,
Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP
Co-Chairman:
Chris Hart, Central Moloney

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. This council has produced agreed legislation for decades. Broad business representation on this committee is necessary to make sure that when we agree to new legislation, we are fully aware of its impact upon all segments of business. The committees also consider and provide guidance to State Chamber/AIA lobbyists on a variety of human resource issues.

PACS

Co-Chairmen:
Joe Carter,
Snyder Environmental

Andy Miller, Southwestern Energy Company

The Arkansas State Chamber of commerce Political Action Committee (ASCCPAC) and the Associated Industries of Arkansas Political Action Committee (AIAPAC) serve as vehicles that allow the State Chamber and AIA to help communicate the goals of the business community and manufacturing and industrial businesses to those individuals running for and currently holding political office in Arkansas. Per Arkansas law, any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, company, corporation, or association, may contribute to a state PAC. The limit is $5,000 per year.
E-Newsletters

The State Chamber/AIA continued its efforts during 2016 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.

Web Sites:

www.arkansasstatechamber.com
www.arkansasstatechamberfoundation.com

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

The State Chamber/AIA also continued with the website, www.arkansasstatechamberfoundation.com, which covers initiatives and programs of the Arkansas State Chamber Foundation, Inc. and the Associated Industries of Arkansas Foundation, Inc. including Dream It. Do It., Leadership Arkansas, Young Manufacturers Academy and Manufacturing Day.

Arkansas Manufacturers Directory

In 2016, the State Chamber/AIA published its seventh edition of the Arkansas Manufacturers Directory.

- The **Arkansas Manufacturers Directory**, an Associated Industries of Arkansas publication, is a guide to becoming involved and being heard within the manufacturing sector.
- The **Arkansas Manufacturers Directory** 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.
State Chamber/AIA Continues Growing 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 daily posts on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Members are urged to “like” or “follow” the State Chamber/AIA pages for the social media outlets.

Marcus Turley Leads Nation Again in Membership Sales Among Chambers

State Chamber/AIA Membership Development Representative Marcus Turley again placed first in the nation in the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) sales contest for 2015-16. Turley placed first in dollar value of membership sold with a total of $241,230 for chambers in the $500,000 - $1.5-million-dollar level category. He also placed 15th nationally selling 102 memberships. He was recognized for his achievements at the 2016 ACCE Convention in Savannah, Georgia. Turley has been ranked first in the nation in the dollar value of membership sold since 2011.

Toni Bahn Named Director of Governmental Affairs for Northwest Arkansas

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

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

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

Randy Zook Recognized by Economics Arkansas

State Chamber/AIA President & CEO Randy Zook was recognized by Economics Arkansas for his service as Board Chair, LIFE Chair and other activities. Economics Arkansas Executive Director Sue Owens presented Zook with a plaque and a gift in May in recognition of his service.
Leadership Arkansas Graduates
Class X, Begins Class XI

Leadership Arkansas Class X, which was presented by ARcare and Nucor Steel – Arkansas, and sponsored by Walmart continued its sessions during 2016 in El Dorado, West Memphis/ Blytheville, Springdale/Bentonville and Little Rock. C. Tad Bohannon, chief executive officer at Central Arkansas Water, served as Leadership Arkansas Class X chairman.

Leadership Arkansas Class X
Class X

Corey Alderdice  
Arkansas School for Math, Science & Arts

Justin Allen  
Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP

Chad Allen  
MISO Energy, Inc.

Michelle Allgood  
Mitchell Williams Selig Gates Woodyard PLLC

Cheryl Avery  
U.S. Army Pine Bluff Arsenal

Toni Bahn  
University of Arkansas Athletics Department

Kelley Bass  
Museum of Discovery

Mike Callahan  
Cromwell Architects Engineers

Jimmy Carlton  
Food & Drug Administration

Scott Carver  
AT&T Arkansas, Inc.

Fran Cavenaugh  
Cavenaugh Auto Group

Drew Chandler  
Farmers Bank & Trust

Bobbi Doorenbos  
Arkansas Air National Guard

Jeremy Enders  
Stone Ward Advertising

John Erck  
UA Sam Walton College of Business

Amy Fecher  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Steve Fike  
West Tree Service, Inc.

J.D. Harris  
Nucor Steel-Arkansas

Randy Henderson  
Nucor Castrip AR, LLC

Bethany Hildebrand  
Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce

Jerry Holder  
Garver

Andrea Jones  
ARcare

Trent Keller  
Action, Inc.

Lisa Lake  
AT&T Arkansas, Inc.

Michael Lindsey  
Walmart, Inc.

Rick Massengale  
Arkansas Tech University

Peggy Matherne  
Albemarle, Inc.

Mike McClellan  
Hamson Energy Partners

Michael McGrew  
Clark Contractors, LLC

Barbara Merrick  
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

Amy Miller  
W&W / AFCO Steel

Philip Mobley  
Commerical National Bank of Texarkana

Ben Noble  
Noble Strategies, Inc.

Bridget Norton  
Dover Dixon Horne PLLC

Mike Parker  
Dassault Falcon jet

Abby Phillips  
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute

Jeff Pitchford  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Wade Radke  
Galley Support Innovations

Shannon Riordan  
AAMSCO ID Products, Inc.

Nathan Rutledge  
Crews & Associates

Susanna Samson  
Brent Stevenson Associates

Vernon Scott  
Simmons Bank

Bart Shaw  
Conway Title Company

Cynthia Sides  
University of Arkansas

Eric Simpson  
IMWell Health

Robert Smith  
Northwest Arkansas Council

Crandall Streett  
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Ray Taylor  
Walmart, Inc.

Nathan Thomas, III  
Clinton Foundation

Christie Turner  
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Dwayne Wilson  
CDI Contractors, LLC

James Wilson  
Southland Park Gaming & Racing

Jeff Wood  
Tyson Foods, Inc.

Glenn Woodruff  
Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc.

Bishop Woosley  
Office of the Arkansas Lottery

Jamie Wright  
Webster University - Little Rock Area

Lance Wright  
Nabholz Construction Co.

Leadership Arkansas Class X Session II - Workforce in Fort Smith welding demonstration
Leadership Arkansas Class X Graduation Photo

Leadership Class X Session III - Government and the Military
A program of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas
www.arkansasstatechamberfoundation.com/leadership

Who We Are

Leadership Arkansas is a unique program designed to take a comprehensive view of the economic and political challenges that face this State. First introduced in 2005 by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, our staff, with the guidance of the organizations’ Boards and Executive Committees, recruits highly-motivated individuals to experience first-hand the dynamic interactions between cities, industries, governmental units and the people they serve.

Leadership Arkansas is grounded in the belief that it is from bringing diverse interests and backgrounds together that real progress is achieved. Through shared experiences and frequent interactions, Leadership Arkansas participants, facilitators and alumni learn and grow as they advance through an innovative nine-month program designed to expose class members to the challenges and opportunities of our local communities and their impact on the state as a whole.

What We Offer

Leadership Arkansas has helped more than 500 graduates deepen their background and understanding of issues facing the state and provided them with effective tools to develop initiatives to improve the quality of life in Arkansas. We also have helped create a statewide community to generate dialogue on those issues, setting the stage for progress throughout the state. Participants have been developing, strengthening and connecting with emerging leaders in Arkansas for several years. We count among our graduates well-established political, business and community leaders.

How the Program Works

The mission of Leadership Arkansas 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.

Leadership Arkansas sessions include:
• annual educational, issues-oriented, nine-month class program
• eight day-and-a-half sessions held in various communities throughout the state
• Arkansas leaders who represent a wide geographic base and who have diverse backgrounds and vocations
• exposure to the many social and environmental complexities of the state
• on-site demonstrations and tours
• diverse geographical and cultural experiences
• insight into the people, places and history that influence public policies
• fun and casual settings which foster new relationships and camaraderie

Class members receive:
• An inclusive network of colleagues and resources
• A broad understanding of state issues and developments
• A better sense of personal leadership potential and enhanced leadership skills

Employers and sponsoring organizations acquire:
• Employees connected to a diverse network of dynamic leaders
• Individuals with knowledge to discuss a variety of issues at the state and community levels
• Staff energized and motivated to apply program information to organization situations
• Leaders prepared to address issues and keep companies in action

Participants are required to attend at least 80 percent of the program sessions, including the entire opening session, which is mandatory. For more information on the Leadership Arkansas program, contact Andrew Parker, Leadership Arkansas Program Director, at aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com or (501) 372-2222.
Leadership Arkansas Class XI Selects 59 Members

Fifty-nine individuals from throughout Arkansas were selected for Leadership Arkansas Class XI. The Underwriting Sponsor for the 2016-2017 Leadership Arkansas program is The Citizens Bank of Batesville. The Presenting Sponsor is ARcare, and Statewide Program Sponsors are Farm Credit of Arkansas, Nucor Steel-Arkansas, and Walmart.

Leadership Arkansas Class XI began with a retreat and opening session Sept. 18-20 at the Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs. Session II covering Arkansas’s Workforce was held Oct. 27-28 in Fort Smith. Session III covering the Government and the Military was held Dec. 1-2 in Little Rock and Jacksonville.
Lt. Gov Tim Griffin speaks to Class XI class members during the mock legislative session at the State Capitol.
New Pinnacle Members Announced for 2016

Summit:
• Nucor/Nucor-Yamato Steel

Peak:
• Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
• Central Moloney Inc.
• Citizens Bank
• Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas Inc.
• McGeorge Contracting Company Inc.
• Winrock International

Crown:
• Bear State Bank
• Ben E. Keith Company
• Big River Steel
• BKD LLP
• Central States Manufacturing, Inc.
• Clean Line Energy
• Communications Sales & Leasing (CS&L)
• Cooper Communities
• First Community Bank
• Golden Living
• Goodwill Industries
• Hackney-Ladish, Inc.
• Hino Motors Manufacturing USA, Inc.
• Harrison Energy Partners
• Hot Springs Village POA
• Hytrol Conveyor Company Inc.
• Image Works Commercial Interiors
• Kimbel Mechanical Systems
• Kinco Constructors, LLC
• Lexicon Inc.
• LifePlus International
• Little Rock Port Authority
• Powers of Arkansas
• Pro Window & Door
• Rheem Air Conditioning
• Union Pacific Railroad
• Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

The Pinnacle Program recognizes the state’s outstanding corporate citizens – State Chamber/AIA members that desire to make a significant statement about their participation in Arkansas’s future. These leading companies are helping make the state a better place in which to live, work and conduct business by supplying the leadership and financial support necessary for the State Chamber/AIA to effectively represent the Arkansas business community.

Through the involvement and leadership of senior representatives of their firms, Pinnacle members actively participate in our grassroots action network, work on policy committees and lead the State Chamber/AIA on the Board of Directors. In doing so, these Pinnacle members provide the resources necessary for our organization to achieve success while helping to shape the future of Arkansas and enhance its economic climate.

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 website; special recognition at all State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events.
Thanks to the Following New and Upgraded State Chamber/AIA Members in 2016

A/V Arkansas, Inc.
ACE Performance Group
Acme Brick - Malvern
Advanced Cabling
Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc.
Affirmative Risk Management, Inc.
Alcoa, Inc.
Alliance Rubber Company
Alpha Packaging, Inc.
American Heart/Stroke Association
Anchor Packaging, Inc.
Apartment Hunters/Arkansas Suites
Arkansas Blood Institute
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Arkansas Graphics
Arkansas Recycling Coalition
Arkansas Regional Recovery Agency, Inc. (ARORA)
Arkansas Welding Academy, Inc.
Auditor of State Andrea Lea
Bad Boy Inc.
Baldwin & Shell Construction Company
Barber Law Firm
Bear State Bank
Bedford Camera & Video, Inc.
Ben E. Keith Company
Big River Steel
BKD, LLP
Bray Sheet Metal Company
C&B Forms & Label
Candlewood Suites
North Little Rock
Cannon Cochran Management Systems, Inc.
Cavanaugh Auto Group
Centennial Bank
Central Moloney Inc.
Central Properties, Inc.
Central States Manufacturing
CheckAlert USA
Cisco-Eagle
Citizens Bank
City of Fort Smith
CJRW
Clean Line Energy

Communications Sales & Leasing (CS&L)
Complete Provider Resource
Cooper Communities Inc.
Crafcon Tulip and Associates
Cross Gunter Witherspoon & Galchup P.C.
CT&T Inc. a PEC Company
DataPath
Deck-Rite, LLC
Diamond Pipeline, LLC
Drumco an Earth Minded Company
Eastern Tank Services, Inc.
Eaton Corporation
E.C. Barton & Company
Edward Jones - Chris Hughes
Elite Comfort Solutions
Essick Air Products/Champion Cooler
eStem Public Charter Schools
The Everett Agencies
Expressway Airport Parking
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc.
Farmers Insurance
First Community Bank
Fis Enterprises
Four Points by Sheraton Midtown
Fraley Roofing, Inc.
Fuqua Campbell, PA
Gain, Inc.
Goins Plastic Source Inc.
Golden Living
Good Shepherd Nursing Home
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas
Grace Communications, Inc.
Great Lakes Solutions - A Chemtura Business
Grubbs, Hoskyn, Barton & Wyatt, Inc.
Hackney-Ladish, Inc.
Harrison Energy Partners
Hatfield Ready Mix, Inc.
Heifer International
Hilltop Healthcare, LLC
Hino Motors
Manufacturing USA, Inc.
Horseshoe Bend Area Chamber of Commerce
Hot Springs Village POA
Hugg & Hall Mobile Storage
Hytral Conveyor Company Inc.
Image Works
Commercial Interiors
Inteltblue.com
Irby Electrical Distributors
Jeffrey Sand Company
JPM Cox PLLC
J V Manufacturing Inc.
Keytronic EMS
Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.
Kimbel Mechanical Systems
Kinco Constructors, LLC
Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc.
Lexicon Inc.
Liberty Trailer Company
LifePlus International
Little Caesar’s Pizza of Arkansas
Little Rock Athletic Club
Little Rock Crane & Basket Co.
Little Rock Port Authority
Little Rock Tools, Inc.
Lyon College
Martin Wilbourn Partners LLC
McGeorge Contracting Company Inc.
Methodist Family Health, Inc.
MHP/Team SI
MKT Fastening, LLC
Mountaineer Corporation
Multi-Craft Contractors Inc.
North Arkansas College
North Little Rock Municipal Airport
Nucor Arkansas
Olin (Blue Cube Operations LLC)
Outdoor Cap Co., Inc.
Ozark Area Chamber of Commerce
Peace Industries
PeopleSource, Ltd.
The Perimeter Group
Perkins Fire Pro
Pernod Ricard-USA
Pinnacle Car Services, Inc.
Plum Point Services Company, LLC
Powers of Arkansas, Inc.
Power Technology
Precision Roll Grinders
Pro Window & Door
QualChoice Health Insurance
Rainbow of Challenges, Inc.
RedStone Construction Group, Inc.
Refrigeration & Electric Supply Co. (R&E)
Rheem Air Conditioning Division
Riverside Furniture Corporation
Smith-Blair, Inc.
Southern Coating & Nameplate, Inc.
Southern Pioneer Property & Casualty Insurance Company
Southern Regional Anesthesiology Consultants
SSI Inc.
Steel, Wright, Gray & Hutchinson, PLLC
TCPrint Solutions
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Texamerican Food Blending, Inc.
Trane Custom Commercial Systems
Travel Nurse Across America, LLC
Trumann Area Chamber of Commerce
UA Community College-Batesville
Unarex USA Inc.
Union Pacific Railroad
The Urban League of the State of Arkansas
U.S. Pizza Co. Inc.
USA Truck, Inc.
Vinh Long-Arkansas LTD Company
Vision IT Consultants
Vital Link, Inc., Emergency Repair of Arkansas
Walther Arms, Inc.
West Memphis Utility Commission
West Tree Service, Inc.
The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Winrock International
Woodson Incorporated
The following members and organizations sponsored State Chamber/AIA events in 2016.

Acxiom Corporation  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)  
AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company  
Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation  
AFCO Steel, LLC  
AIPRO  
Albemarle Corporation  
Alcoa Inc.  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AOG)  
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Arkansas Business Publishing Group  
Arkansas Capital Corporation Group  
Arkansas Credit Union League  
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services  
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Arkansas Hospital Association  
Arkansas Learns  
Arkansas Municipal League  
Arkansas Oil Marketers Association  
Arkadelphia Regional EDA  
Arvest Bank  
Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas  
AT&T Arkansas  
Auditor of State Andrea Lea  
Baldor Electric Company  
Baldwin & Shell Construction Company  
Bank of the Ozarks  
Baptist Health  
Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce  
BKD, LLP  
Black Hills Energy  
Brent Stevenson Associates  
Cargill Turkey  
Cavenaugh Auto Group  
CDI Contractors LLC  
Center for Healing Hearts & Spirits  
Central Moloney Inc.  
Cisco-Eagle  
Citizens Bank  
Clearwater Paper Corporation  
Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.  
Conway Corporation  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Cox Communications  
Cross County Chamber of Commerce/Wynne EDC  
Cross Gunter Witherspoon & Galchus P.C.  
Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.  
DataPath  
Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.  
Deltic Timber Corporation  
Domtar  
Dover Dixon Horne PLLC  
Edwards Food Giant  
El Dorado Chemical Company  
Eirod Real Estate  
Farm Credit Services of Arkansas  
Ferstl Valuation Services  
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 Special Steel  
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas  
Government Solutions, LLC  
Governor’s Quality Award  
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce  
Great Lakes Solutions - A Chemtura Business  
Griffey Agency  
Hargraves Consulting LLC  
Harrison Energy Partners  
Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas  
International Paper Company  
inVeritas Research & Consulting, Inc.  
Kinco Constructors, LLC  
Kutak Rock LLP  
Lion Oil Company  
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control  
Lofoton Staffing & Security Services  
Mainstream Technologies, Inc.  
McKee Foods Corporation  
Mercy Health  
Mitchell Williams Selig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC  
Mullenix & Associates, LLC  
Nabholz Construction Services  
Nucor Arkansas  
Northwest Technical Institute  
Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport  
Oaklawn Jockey Club  
OG+E  
Onebanc & Trust, N.A.  
Regions Bank  
Regions Insurance  
Reliance Bank, N.A.  
Riceland Foods Inc.  
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rose Law Firm  
Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Signature Bank of Arkansas  
Simmons Bank  
SourceGas Arkansas  
Southland Park Gaming & Racing  
Southwestern Energy Company  
Stephens Inc.  
Stephens Production Company  
Southwest Power Pool  
TCPrint Solutions  
The Roberts Group  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
UALR  
UAMS  
Union Pacific Railroad  
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
University of Arkansas System  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Bank  
Vision IT Consultants  
Walmart Stores Inc.  
Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas, Inc.  
Windstream  
Winrock International  
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute/Petit Jean Mountain  
Witt Global Partners, LLC  
Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP  
XTO Energy, Inc., an ExxonMobil subsidiary
Affiliated Organizations

Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence (AIPE)/Governor’s Quality Award

Through a partnership formed in 2008, the Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce provide training and recognition for high-performing organizations in Arkansas through the Governor’s Quality Award Program.

With a mission to advance organizational excellence for economic growth and sustainability of participating Arkansas organizations, AIPE provides training services to all organizations in the state in all industries – manufacturing, healthcare, non-profit, education and business with a goal of helping organizations maximize their potential.

Training opportunities include:
• Using Baldrige to leverage the ISO 9001:2015 accreditation process
• Annual regional and industry-specific seminars
• In-depth organizational self-assessment facilitation
• Professional development training

The Governor’s Quality Award program provides opportunities for all organizations in the state to measure their progress in the journey of performance excellence using the nationally recognized Baldrige Excellence Framework criteria.

Apply for a Governor’s Quality Award

• Learn how to write an application at Applicant Training
• Receive a feedback report of strengths and gaps from a team of trained professionals who examine applications
• Become a member of our Board of Examiners and receive training on assessing applications
• Receive statewide recognition at annual awards ceremony and promotion

For more information on receiving a Governor’s Quality Award or to learn more about the program, contact Sue Weatter at 501-372-2222, sweatter@arkansasstatechamber.com or visit the website at www.arkansas-quality.org.
Arkansas Economic Developers & Chamber Executives (AEDCE)

Arkansas Economic Developers & Chamber Executives (AEDCE) is the state’s premier association representing professional and volunteer economic developers and chamber executives in Arkansas. Previously organized as two separate entities, (Arkansas Economic Developers and Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Executives), the two associations merged in 2016 to create a stronger, more efficient and unified alliance. AEDCE’s objective is to advance, through educational and professional efforts, the business climate and quality of life in Arkansas by the development of employment opportunities through economic growth and community development. This is accomplished through education, advocacy and our connected network of association members.

Membership in AEDCE is available to anyone with an interest in the economic and community development of Arkansas. Our membership covers all parts and aspects of the economic development and chamber industry in Arkansas, from rural to urban areas and everything in between. This allows us to provide a broad array of resources and expertise in the chamber and economic development fields.

AEDCE is a 501 (c) 6 organization that is housed at the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA. The staff and board of AEDCE are dedicated to providing leadership and a vision to advance economic development and chamber professionals in Arkansas. For more information, visit our website at www.aedce.org or contact AEDCE Executive Director Shelley Short at 501-210-4206.

As we celebrate 76 years of service, we find ourselves reflecting on those who have helped to shape our business in a most significant way. We are growing. We are changing. We are evolving into a company that can handle not only your simple print jobs, but so much more.

And we have you to thank. Without our faithful clients, who continue to support and use TC Print, we could not grow to serve you better.

We value our relationship with you and look forward to providing even better, even more printing services in the years to come.

www.tcprint.com • 501.945.7165
Join us as we bring a new generation of pride, progress and professionals to Arkansas’s skilled workforce.

Right now, tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs are unfilled in Arkansas. And with many skilled professionals at or near retirement age and fewer people encouraging our young people to pursue a career in manufacturing, that number is likely to climb.

But there is an answer: you.

With the collective efforts of Arkansas’s manufacturers, we can position the industry as a viable career option and improve the overall image of manufacturing by:

• Opening your doors to students at every level
• Connecting with two-year colleges and trade schools in your area
• Engaging with community leaders to demonstrate the opportunities for skilled workers

Be Pro Be Proud – An Initiative led by the Associated Industries of Arkansas, is leading the movement to bring a new generation of pride, progress and professionals to Arkansas’s skilled workforce.
Learn how to leverage the new ISO 9001:2015 accreditation process to a higher level of organizational excellence!

ISO 9001:2015 AND BALDRIGE: THE INTEGRATION OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

With the expansion of ISO 9001 requirements comes an opportunity for organizations to have quality management system processes in place that are successful both now and in the future.

The update to the 2015 edition of ISO 9001 more closely aligns with the Baldrige Excellence Framework, a proven management framework for over 25 years. Insights from Baldrige will help manufacturers move from minimal compliance of ISO 9001:2015 to realizing the benefits of an overall strategy for excellence.

The major components of this organization strategy include:

- The role of leadership in a fully-integrated QMS
- The importance of defining the organizational context
- Understanding and addressing customer needs
- Organizational risk and opportunities to improve.
- Designing and integrating work processes

A key output is the initial development of individual work plans using PDCA to address improvement actions identified during the workshop.

Call Sue Weatter today at 501-372-2222 to find out about training opportunities for your company!

The Governor's Quality Award Program

The Governor’s Quality Award Program provides opportunities for all organizations in the state to apply for award recognition and external feedback using the Baldrige Excellence Framework criteria.

- Use your Organizational Context and apply for a Governor's Quality Award. Learn how to write an application at Applicant Training.
- Receive a feedback report of your application from trained examiners that identifies strengths and gaps in processes and results.
- Develop a concise description of your organizational context with an Organizational Profile
- Become a member of our Board of Examiners and receive training on assessing applications.
- Receive statewide recognition at the annual awards ceremony.

For more information on receiving a Governor’s Quality Award or any services offered, contact Sue Weatter at 501-372-2222 or visit our website at www.arkansas-quality.org.
Improving the lives of our customers through technology
For 20 years

BY EARNING TRUST ON A DAILY BASIS:

“Mainstream has the ability to anticipate our needs and help us plan for the future. We put our total trust in Mainstream for the health of our IT environment.”

Rick C. Gunther
Chief Financial Officer
Rainwater, Holt & Sexton, PA

BY ADDING VALUE:

“In 2000, we were four guys with an idea. We were looking for a software company we could trust to turn our vision into reality. Today, the software Mainstream built for us saves our customers in excess of $100,000,000 each and every year.”

Greg Holder
Cofounder & CEO
Compliance Networks

BY EVOLVING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY:

“As we’ve grown over the last 8 years from not having a server and not accepting credit cards, to having an Apple-based cash register donor system, technology has grown by leaps and bounds. Being able to have a partner like Mainstream, who can focus on technology and changes without us having to worry about it, has helped us continue our growth and will help us continue to grow in the future.”

Brian Itzkowitz
President & CEO
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas