



March 13 – 17, 2017

- [Medical Marijuana: Your Employees and the Law](#)
- [State Chamber/AIA E-Newsletters Migrating to Constant Contact: Please Opt In](#)
- [Please Join Us: Hiring Our Heroes Little Rock Hiring Fair on March 30](#)
- [Next Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session March 30-31 in Hot Springs](#)
- [Arkansas Free Filing to Feature Sen. Boozman and Gov. Hutchinson](#)
- [AEDC's Manufacturing Solutions Hosting Exporting Workshops](#)
- [AEF Regulated Waste/Water Seminars Set for March 29 and 30 in Little Rock](#)
- [Arkansas Recycling Coalition Holding Spring Recycling/Sustainability Summit](#)
- [AEDF Luncheon Set for April 18 at Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock](#)
- [Save the Date for the 27th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon on May 4th](#)
- [ASCC PAC and AIA PAC](#)
- [Sign Up for State Chamber/AIA Staples Business Advantage Discount Program](#)
- [Thanks to Our New and Upgraded Members](#)
- [Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

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.

[-back to top-](#)

State Chamber/AIA E-Newsletters Migrating to Constant Contact; Please Opt In

The three State Chamber/AIA e-newsletters, E-Business, Washington Watch and Industry Insight, will soon be migrating to a Constant Contact format. If you have subscribed to these and wish to continue receiving them, please opt in for these if you have previously opted out of other Constant Contact products (you will be receiving an e-mail asking if you wish to opt in to these three offerings).

Once you start receiving our e-newsletters via Constant Contact, please do not opt out as you may miss important State Chamber/AIA information. Our e-newsletters are among the best communications vehicles we have for keeping you in the loop. If you have questions, contact Jeff Thatcher at jthatcher@arkansasstatechamber.com or call him at 501-210-4205.

[-back to top-](#)

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.

Registration is required prior to the event.

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.

[-back to top-](#)

Next Leadership Arkansas Class XI Session March 30-31 in Hot Springs

Leadership Arkansas Class XI will hold Session VI: Education on March 30-31 in Hot Springs. The session is sponsored by **Arkansas Furniture, Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts** and **Seiz Sign Company**.

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 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, Inc. 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.

[-back to top-](#)

Arkansas Free File Briefing to Feature Sen. Boozman and Gov. Hutchinson

U.S. Senator John Boozman and Governor Asa Hutchinson will be featured along with community leaders at the Arkansas Free File public briefing and demonstration, which will be held at 10 a.m. this Friday, March 17 in the Walmart Community Room of the Bentonville Public Library located at 405 S. Main St.

To download an event flyer, click [here](#). To RSVP, contact Lori Baux at MLBaux@gmail.com or call 202-265-8148.

The IRS and Arkansas Free File programs provide free online federal and state tax preparation and e-filing services for lower and moderate income taxpayers.

Free File is a complement to other free tax services in the community like the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The AR Free File program can be found [here](#). For IRS Free File, click [here](#).

Free File outreach materials can be found [here](#).

[-back to top-](#)

AEDC's Manufacturing Solutions Hosting Exporting Workshops

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 next Thursday, March 23, 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 during the same time frame at the same location on April 25 and May 25.

Expotech 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/expotech/>.

[-back to top-](#)

AEF Regulated Waste/Water Seminars Set for March 29 and 30 in Little Rock

The Arkansas Environmental Federation (AEF) has announced the dates for its annual Regulated Waste and Water Seminars to be held in Little Rock.

The Regulated Waste Seminar will be held from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on March 29th and the Water Seminar will be held from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on March 30th. Both seminars will be held at the Holiday Inn – Airport which is located at 3201 Bankhead Drive in Little Rock.

Both seminars are geared toward plant managers, maintenance and environmental managers, state and local regulatory agency professionals, and local government officials in their professional responsibilities.

Continuing Education Credits are available to participants. To register or for more information, click www.environmentark.org.

[-back to top-](#)

Arkansas Recycling Coalition Holding Spring Recycling/Sustainability Summit

The Arkansas Recycling Coalition (ARC) will hold its 2017 Spring Recycling/Sustainability Summit from 9 a.m. – 12 noon on March 30 at Virco Manufacturing in Conway. The Summit will feature presentations on the following topics: recycling of old buildings, a new environmental service company, a new class four landfill, glass recycling, plastic recycling, tire recycling, update at a waste

district, tax credits, waste prevention and business assistance. Lunch will be served. To register, click www.recycleark.org. For more information, call the ARC office at 866-290-1429

[-back to top-](#)

AEDF Luncheon Set for April 18 at Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock

Tyson Foods President and CEO Tom Hayes will headline the Arkansas Economic Development Foundation Luncheon (AEDF) to be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

The luncheon, which is a joint event by the AEDF and the Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation (AIEDF), aims to benefit economic development efforts in Arkansas through activities such as research, site visits and recruitment support. Corporate partner sponsors for the luncheon include Tyson Foods, Entergy, Walmart and Stephens Inc. Tickets are \$300 each or \$2,500 for a table of 10. For luncheon sponsorship and ticket inquiries, contact Becky Rogers at roger1@entergy.com or 501-377-4434.

[-back to top-](#)

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 and co-founder 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 – Kinco Constructors, LLC and 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.

[-back to top-](#)

ASCC PAC and AIA PAC

Just a reminder that you can click [here](#) to donate to ASCC PAC or [here](#) to donate to AIA PAC. More information about the PACs can be found [here](#) as well. Post Legislative Session, we will be able to report back on additional investments we have made because of our generous PAC donors. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Holly Wilson at 501-372-2222.

[-back to top-](#)

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.

[-back to top-](#)

Thanks to Our New and Upgraded Members

Thanks to the following new members that have recently joined the State Chamber/AIA and to those members that have recently upgraded their membership investment in our organizations:

Ace Glass Construction Corp.
Arkansas HVACR Association
Glatfelter
Marcusen Funeral Consulting
TCPrint Solutions
TruService Community FCU

[-back to top-](#)

Thanks to Our Pinnacle Members

We would like to thank and recognize **TCPrint Solutions** for recently upgrading their 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 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.
TCPrint Solutions
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**

[-back to top-](#)

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 15 | 58 th 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

[-back to top-](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#) to E-Business Newsletter.

[Who We Are](#) | [News Center](#) | [Governmental Affairs](#) | [Events](#)
[Membership](#) | [Partners & Links](#) | [Site Index](#)
[Search](#) | [Contact](#) | [Copyright 2017](#)