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Deltic Timber
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Vice Chairman:
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and Blue Shield

Vice Chairman:
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Vice Chairman:
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Vice Chairman:
Ronnie Dedman
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Vice Chairman:
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Vice Chairman:
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State Chamber/AIA Treasurer

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Company Inc.

Vice Chairman:
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(Retired)

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OK Foods Inc.

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El Dorado Chemical Company

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas 2018 Annual Report
State Chamber/AIA Hosts Annual Legislative Reception on February 20th

The State Chamber/AIA hosted the Annual Legislative Reception on February 20th under the big tent on our parking lot following the convening of the 2018 Arkansas Fiscal Session. A crowd of more than 300 attended including members of the Arkansas General Assembly, elected Constitutional officers, state agency heads and State Chamber/AIA members. The Be Pro Be Proud mobile workshop, part of the State Chamber/AIA’s workforce skills initiative, was also on-site. The Annual Legislative Reception provides the opportunity for members of the state’s business community to network and interact one-on-one with state legislators and other elected officials.


The Be Pro Be Proud mobile workshop drew a steady crowd.

Kelly Robbins of the Arkansas Petroleum Council, Pam Toler of ASU Childhood Services, House Majority Leader Mat Pitch and Andy Miller of Flywheel Energy.

Patty Cardin of Lanxess Solutions Inc. and Lucas Hargraves of Hargraves Consulting LLC.

Rep. Johnny Rye and Randy Thurman of Government Solutions LLC.

Shane Broadway of the ASU System and Kay Brockwell.
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

State Chamber/AIA Hosts Lobbyist Luncheons and Candidate Forums

The State Chamber/AIA hosted lobbyist luncheons during the 2018 Fiscal Session that featured Senate President Pro Tempore Jonathan Dismang and Speaker of the House Jeremy Gillam and representatives from Dover Dixon Horne PLLC. The State Chamber/AIA later hosted forums in the spring for the primary election and forums in the fall for the general election for various Republican and Democratic candidates running for the offices of state representative and state senator.

State Rep. Andrew Collins - D-H35 - Little Rock


Senate President Pro Tem Jonathan Dismang speaks as House Speaker Jeremy Gillam looks on at one of the lobbyist luncheons

Kenny Hall (right) introduces representatives from Dover Dixon Horne (left) at one of the lobbyist luncheons
The candidate forums drew big crowds.
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

91st General Assembly 2018 Fiscal Session Recap

The 91st General Assembly Fiscal Session convened on Feb. 12 and adjourned sine die on March 12.

During the Fiscal Session, the Legislature voted on 124 Senate bills and 139 House bills.

The most dramatic moments of the Fiscal Session occurred when the Senate took up an appropriation bill for the Division of Economic and Medical Services. It administers Medicaid and the expansion of Medicaid known as Arkansas Works, which has generated controversy and heated debate in every legislative session since 2013.

Passage of an appropriation bill requires a supermajority of 75 percent, which means it needs 27 votes in the 35-member Senate. The funding bill for Medicaid passed in the Senate without a vote to spare on a vote of 27-to-2. In the House of Representatives, the vote was 79-to-15.

The House and the Senate also both passed HB 1137, the Revenue Stabilization bill that prioritizes the state’s spending to keep the budget balanced, which Gov. Hutchinson subsequently signed into law.

The House and Senate also both passed HB1122, the appropriation for the Treasurer’s Office, which Gov. Hutchinson subsequently signed into law.

The Senate voted to elect Sen. Jim Hendren, R-Gravette, as Senate Pro Tem for the 92nd General Assembly.

After adjournment, the House went into a Caucus meeting to select a Speaker Designate for the 92nd General Assembly. Rep. Matthew Shepherd, R-El Dorado, was elected.

Both elections will need to be confirmed by members of the 92nd General Assembly when they convene the second Monday of January 2019.

91st General Assembly Second Special Session Recap

On March 13, an Extraordinary Session of the 91st General Assembly convened. Bills filed, approved and signed in accordance with Gov. Hutchinson’s call were:

HB 1001/SB 4, which revises the definition of “alcoholic beverages” within the criminal violation of possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. The legislation amended the defined areas of a motor vehicle in which a container may be stored.

HB 1002, which authorizes the use of bingo gaming equipment that displays a bingo face electronically.

HB 1003/ SB 1, which changes the defenses to prosecution for a violation or operating an all-terrain vehicle from private property to another property via a public street or highway.

HB 1004/ SB3, which amends the Public School Choice Act of 2015 transfer ratio calculation, stating that a sibling group whose application for student transfer causes a district to exceed the three percent limit on transfers shall be allowed to transfer as a group. (HB 1009 was the same as HB 1004)

HB 1005/SB 7, which exempts unpaved trail construction projects that are under control of the State Parks Commission from design and construction standards and requirements of the DF&A Building Authority Division.

HB 1006/ SB 5, which establishes the applicability of contacts in which the parties agree to waive their respective rights to trial by jury. This was filed with the support of the State Chamber/AIA and several other organizations in response to a Supreme Court decision Tilley v. Malvern National Bank, rendered on Dec. 7, 2017.

HB 1007/ SB 8, which provides that an application with ADEQ for modification of an existing permit for the application of liquid animal waste only opens for review those permit conditions which are subject to modification.

HB 1008/ SB 6, which creates a tax exemption for contributions to a tuition savings account that can be used for expenses within a federal ABLE account.

HB 1010/ SB 2, which establishes the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act.

The Second Special Session adjourned after all the issues on Gov. Hutchinson’s call had been addressed.
Study Finds Highway Investment Would Generate $1.3 Billion in State Economic Activity

Arkansas Good Roads Foundation, joined by the State Chamber/AIA, released a study during a press conference at the State Chamber on Oct. 16 detailing the economic impact of increased investment in Arkansas roads and highways.

The study, conducted by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), found that an additional annual investment of $478 million needed to maintain and preserve Arkansas’s existing highway system would result in a statewide economic impact of at least $1.3 billion, while creating 5,729 jobs throughout all sectors of the state’s economy.

The study also indicated that construction activity from $478 million in additional highway investment would increase sales outputs for business in all sectors of the state’s economy by $941.6 million each year and would result in increased state and local tax revenue of $56.7 million annually.

An annual $478 million increase in Arkansas’s highway, street and bridge investment would:

- Allow for the needed maintenance and repair essential for preserving the current system
- Result in a total impact of $1.3 billion in increased economic activity across the state
- Increase sales and output by businesses in all sectors by $941.6 million each year
- Create 5,729 jobs throughout all sectors of the state’s economy
- Generate additional state and local tax revenue of $56.7 million each year

Source: The Economic Impacts of an Annual $478 million Increase in Arkansas Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction Investment - ARTBA, October 2018
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS


The State Chamber/AIA hosted Second District Congressman French Hill for a meeting on net neutrality and rural broadband in January and for a coffee in May. Both events drew good crowds.

State Chamber Staff Attend Local Chamber Meetings Throughout Arkansas

During 2018, State Chamber staff members attended 21 local chamber annual meetings throughout Arkansas including Malvern, Hot Springs, Cabot, Bentonville, Pine Bluff, Siloam Springs, Sherwood, North Little Rock, Rogers, Hope, Benton, Conway, Arkadelphia, Heber Springs, Paragould, El Dorado, Jonesboro, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Fayetteville and Russellville. The State Chamber/AIA values our partnership with the various local chambers in the state and appreciates the fine work that they do.
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.
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

State Chamber/AIA Hosts Business 101 for Legislators

The State Chamber/AIA hosted Business 101 for Arkansas legislators on Dec. 11 in the State Chamber Conference Room. Business 101 provided legislators an opportunity to hear from and interact with seasoned experts on many of the issues they will encounter during the 92nd General Assembly.

The following presentations were provided during the half-day session:

- “How Government Impacts Businesses” presented by Joe Carter of Snyder Environmental and Chris Hart of Central Moloney Inc.
- “Arkansas Economy and Development of an Available & Trained Workforce” presented by State Chamber President & CEO Randy Zook
- “Infrastructure and Highways” presented by Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Director Scott Bennett and Joe Quinn of the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation
- “Ballot Initiative Process & Legal Issues” presented by Justin Allen of Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP
- “Cost of Doing Business” presented by Mike Moore and Guy Wade of Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP
- “Taxes” presented by Mike Parker and Matt Boch of Dover Dixon Horne PLLC

Business 101 drew a good crowd.
Mike Parker (left) and Matt Boch of Dover Dixon Horne PLLC provide a presentation on Taxes.

Chris Hart of Central Moloney Inc. (left) and Joe Carter of Snyder Environmental present How Government Impacts Business.

ARDOT Director Scott Bennett speaks about Infrastructure and Highways.

Guy Wade (left) and Mike Moore of Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP present the Cost of Doing Business.

Mike Parker (left) and Matt Boch of Dover Dixon Horne PLLC provide a presentation on Taxes.

Justin Allen of Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP talks about the Ballot Initiative Process & Legal issues.
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

2018 PAC Stats

Thanks to many of you, our political action committee (PAC) program continues to grow!

- $122,500.68 RECEIVED FOR 2018 AS OF PRESS TIME
- 158 PARTICIPATING DONORS
- DONATED $173,100 TO CANDIDATES OVER THE COURSE OF THE 2018 ELECTION CYCLE
- CURRENT BALANCE FOR AIA PAC: $17,977.53/CURRENT BALANCE FOR ASCC PAC: $60,247.58

Many thanks to those State Chamber/AIA members who have partnered with us in this effort. Making sure that Arkansas businesses continue to have a strong voice at the State Capitol is critical to our state's economic success. Please consider making a PAC donation each and every year to ensure we can continue to build strong relationships with those that represent us.

2018 PAC Chairs

Ray Dillon

Ray Dillon retired as President and Chief Executive Officer of Deltic Timber Corporation in December 2016 after serving for more than 13 years in the position. During his tenure at Deltic Timber Corporation, Dillon brought to the company a revitalized focus on efficiency and personal accountability within all levels of Deltic’s operations. The effects of this enhancement in core operating principles were evidenced by improvements in both the operating and financial results reported by the company.

Dillon currently serves on the Board of Directors for America’s Car Mart, headquartered in Rogers, Arkansas, as its chairman, and serves on the Board of Stone Bank, headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dillon serves on several nonprofit boards in Central Arkansas which includes The Fin Tech Venture Center where he invests and mentors technology startups. He is also Past Chairman of the State Chamber.

Dillon was Executive Vice President of Gaylord Container Corporation until completion of its sale to Temple Inland Corporation in April 2002. Previously, he served as Vice President-Primary Production Operations and Vice President-Mill Operations for Gaylord, in addition to his other prior responsibilities.

Dillon began his 25-year career with Gaylord in 1977 as a process engineer at the Bogalusa mill in Bogalusa, Louisiana, for the predecessor of Gaylord, Crown Zellerbach. From 1987 until 1994, he was General Manager of Gaylord’s Pine Bluff, Arkansas, manufacturing facility. During the remainder of his tenure at Gaylord, Dillon held a variety of senior level positions in the Chicago, Illinois, corporate office of this $1.2 billion manufacturer of container board, corrugated containers, and other forest industry products.

Dillon earned a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University in 1977 and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 2000.

Andy Miller

Andy Miller serves as senior director of government and community relations for Flywheel Energy, which in September 2018 acquired the holdings of Southwestern Energy Company where he was previously employed. He joined the company in the fall of 2005 and helped develop the community and public relations programs for SWN’s significant interest in the Fayetteville Shale Play. In October 2006, he was added to the government relations department as a director. Prior to joining the company, Miller spent 18 years working for Arkansas Farm Bureau, eventually being promoted to director of national governmental affairs.

Miller is currently serving as President of the Arkansas Producers and Royalty Owners Association and as the Southeast Region Chairman of America’s Natural Gas Alliance. He is also a Vice Chairman of the State Chamber.

While he is well known in Arkansas political circles, Miller is also an active member of the Central Arkansas community. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation, the Board of Directors of the Quapaw Area Council Boy Scouts of America, the Board of Directors of the University of Arkansas Community College in Morrilton Foundation, as well as the Board of Directors of the Conway Regional Hospital Foundation and the Heart of Arkansas United Way Board of Directors.

Miller graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1987 with a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Business. He and his wife, Paige Beavers Miller, live in Little Rock with their daughters, Madeline and Ally.
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

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.

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. Neither 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.
State Chamber/AIA Hosts 28th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon

Arkansas winners were honored at the 2018 Small Business Awards Luncheon hosted by the State Chamber/AIA on May 10th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in west Little Rock.

Joe Saumweber and Michael Paladino were named the 2018 Arkansas Small Business Persons of the Year. Saumweber and Paladino started RevUnit, an innovative digital product agency in 2012, to empower employees by creating enterprise-level products to improve employee communication, engagement, productivity, accessibility, and training systems. Today, RevUnit employs more than 60 people, has operations in Bentonville and Las Vegas, and its annual revenues for 2017 were more than $8 million.

The following awards were also presented:
• Arkansas SCORE Chapter of the Year - Little Rock SCORE
• Arkansas Microlender of the Year - F.O.R.G.E. Inc., Huntsville
• Arkansas Top SBA Lender – based on number of loans to Arkansas Small Businesses - Arvest Bank, Fayetteville
• Arkansas Top SBA Lender – based on dollars loaned to Arkansas Small Businesses - Arvest Bank, Fayetteville
• Arkansas Rising Star SBA Lender of the Year - First Service Bank, Greenbrier
• Arkansas Small Business Development Center of the Year - Henderson State SBTDC, Arkadelphia

The event was emceed by Roby Brock of Talk Business & Politics. The keynote speaker was Rex Nelson, senior editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. U.S. SBA District Director Edward Haddock also provided remarks.

Rex Nelson, Small Business Persons of the Year Michael Paladino and Joe Saumweber of RevUnit, and Edward Haddock.

Rex Nelson, Brett Ausley of multiple award winner Arvest Bank and Edward Haddock.

Rex Nelson, Leah Hasley of award winner HSU SBTDC and Edward Haddock.
State Chamber/AIA Provides Cybersecurity and Tax Workshops in 2018

As part of its continuing education outreach efforts, the State Chamber/AIA provided workshops on cybersecurity and taxes during 2018 that drew significant crowds.

On Jan. 16 and Feb. 22, two Cybersecurity Risk Management Workshops, part of a three-part series that began in December 2017, were held in the State Chamber Conference Room. “Ensuring Delivery of Critical Infrastructure Services was held on Jan. 16 and “Discovering, Responding and Recovering After a Cybersecurity Event” was held on Feb. 22. John Burgess, president of Mainstream Technologies Inc. was the facilitator for the workshops.

On Oct. 30, Nov. 8 and Dec. 4, the State Chamber/AIA presented “Tax Gone Wild – Navigating the Changing Landscape,” a regional workshop held in Little Rock, Fayetteville and El Dorado, respectively. The workshop dealt with changes in the tax world including the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the U.S. Supreme Court revisiting state tax nexus questions, major changes being considered by the Arkansas Tax Reform and Legislative Task Force, and planned revisions by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration to sales tax regulations.

Presenters at the “Tax Gone Wild” workshop included Matthew Boch, Attorney-at-Law and member of Dover Dixon Horne PLLC, T.J. Lawhon, Attorney-at-Law and Counsel for Dover Dixon Horne PLLC, Ernie Skyrme, CPA – Director for BKD CPAs & Advisors, Kevin Horn, CPA, CFP, CFA – Partner/Arkansas Tax Director for BKD CPAs & Advisors, and Ronald Eidshaug, Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
59th Annual Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner Held April 18th

The State Chamber/AIA hosted the 59th Annual Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner on April 18th.


Paul Rich of Aerojet Rocketdyne, Toni Lindsey, U.S. Sen. John Boozman, Rob Shenton of Aerojet Rocketdyne and Buckley O’Mell of the Little Rock Regional Chamber at Hill Country BBQ.

U.S. Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR3) addresses Fly-In participants during a meeting in the Cannon House Office Building.
Governor Hutchinson, Capital Investor Awards Highlight State Chamber/AIA 90th Annual Meeting

2019 State Chamber Chairman Phil Baldwin of Citizens Bank, Tiffany McNeal of the Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber, Dr. Lewis Shepherd of Henderson State University and Melanie Baden of the Arkansas Waterways Association

Artist Matt McLeod and Randy Zook with the Capitol Reflections painting

Stephen Bell of the Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber and State Chamber Chairman Ray Dillon

Central Moloney employees (from left) Ronnie Gray, Lee Willingham, Emily Griffin, Kevin Wood, Kevin Frye, Mason Rush and Reid Stewart


Attendees at attention for the Pledge of Allegiance
Be Pro Be Proud Efforts Expand Throughout State During 2018

Since it was unveiled in March 2016, the Be Pro Be Proud mobile unit has been on a statewide tour visiting companies, community events and schools. The mobile unit provides hands-on experience with skilled professions and shows the jobs in depth to a live audience. The unit contains profession video trailers, three different simulators – trucking, welding and CNC – and three interacting components, including a game, training center and job center.

From its launch through the third quarter of 2018, 41,969 visitors have been on the mobile unit, 387 tour stops have taken place, 220 cities have been visited, and 12,303 people have joined the movement.

As part of the Be Pro Be Proud initiative, the State Chamber/AIA partnered with various other organizations in the state to develop the publication Blueprint in early 2018 and Arkansas Next Pros – A Guide To Life After High School in the fall of 2018.
State Chamber/AIA Participates in Workforce Outreach Efforts Throughout Year

The State Chamber/AIA participated in various workforce outreach efforts during 2018. In March, State Chamber President & CEO Randy Zook was a presenter at the Northwest Arkansas Business and Education Partnership Meeting. In April, Vice President Programs and Partnerships Shelley Short judged some of the VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) events at the annual event in Hot Springs. In September, the State Chamber/AIA partnered with Arkansas Learns and America Succeeds to present the Age of Agility Summit in Little Rock.

2018 Young Manufacturers Academies Held Throughout State

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.

State Chamber/AIA Promotes Manufacturing Day 2018 on October 5 and Beyond

The State Chamber/AIA again partnered with the National Association of Manufacturers in promoting Manufacturing Day 2018 on October 5 and beyond. In Arkansas, 25 Manufacturing Day events were held. 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 and subject matter experts from member companies across the state, issue committees meet as needed throughout the year to help identify and develop key issues that are critical to the future of Arkansas.

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

The State Chamber/AIA Committees and their leaders include:

**Health Care**
**Chairman: Kurt Knickrehm, McGriff Insurance**

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.

**Workforce Excellence**
**Chairman: Ken Stuckey, Pace Industries**

Recognizing that the workforce of tomorrow is in the schools of today, the Workforce Excellence 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: Tom Kennedy, Entergy Arkansas, Inc.; Robert D. Smith, III, Attorney at Law**

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 on business issues. 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.

**National Issues**
**Co-Chairmen: Matt Mika, Tyson Foods, Inc.; Connie Vaughan, McKee Foods Corporation; Kevin McGilton, Riceland 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 committee has developed a list of nine priority issues – health care, the farm bill, education and workforce development, unions, climate change, energy policy, economic stimulus, taxes and immigration.
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. This committee 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 in identifying and reviewing issues that relate to the cost of doing business in Arkansas. Broad business representation on this committee is necessary to make sure we are fully aware of the impact of issues on all segments of business. The committee also considers and provides guidance to State Chamber/AIA lobbyists on a variety of human resource issues.

**PACS**

*Co-Chairmen: Ray Dillon, Deltic Timber Corp. (retired); Andy Miller, Flywheel Energy*

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 2018 to reach the broadest possible business audience via our various e-newsletters.

- **E-Business** is a twice-monthly compendium of articles chronicling our organizations' events, activities, program, efforts and committees.
- **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.
- **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.

In addition, the State Chamber/AIA sends out periodic E-mail blasts covering our issue seminars and timely state or federal topics that may be of interest to our members.

Archived copies of our e-newsletters are also posted on our website: www.arkansasstatechamber.com.

If you are not currently receiving our e-newsletters and would like to be added to our distribution list, contact Jeff Thatcher at jthatcher@arkansasstatechamber.com.

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**Arkansas Manufacturers Directory**

In 2018, the State Chamber/AIA published its ninth 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.

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**Web Sites**

The State Chamber/AIA website, www.arkansasstatechamber.com, is on a WordPress platform, which makes it user-friendly and mobile compatible.

Members are encouraged to visit the site to keep up with State Chamber/AIA events and initiatives.

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.
State Chamber/AIA Continues Growing Social Media Presence

In an effort to gain traffic and build exposure of our organizations 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 Recognized by ACCE with Awards

State Chamber/AIA Vice President of Membership Development Marcus Turley was recognized by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the 2018 Sales Contest and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Turley placed Second nationally in the $500,000 - $2 Million in Dues Income – Dollar Value of New Personal Sales category.

Additionally, Turley is a member of the ACCE’s Circle of Champions. He is the recipient of the ACCE’s Diamond Award, the highest level for lifetime achievement, for achieving $1.5 million in sales in chamber memberships throughout his career.

Trish Villines Named AIPE Executive Director

The Arkansas State Chamber has named Trish Villines as the Executive Director of the Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence. Villines replaces Sue Weatter who retired from the position December 31st, serving in the role from 2007 through 2018. Villines has more than 15 years of administrative experience in public relations, nonprofit development, and higher education. The Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence is a partner of the State Chamber that administers the Governor’s Quality Award Program.

“Trish has been a part of our program for six years and played various key roles in the Governor’s Quality Award Program,” Weatter said. As part of her role at North Arkansas College, Villines was integral in leading the writing of the College’s Governor’s Quality Award application. The College was the first higher education institution in the state to receive the Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence in 2015. For the past five years, Villines has served as a member of the training team coaching both potential award applicants and examiners.

“I am proud of the success and growth of the Governor’s Quality Award Program and I am excited for the future as Trish expands program services to promote high performance for businesses and organizations across the state,” Weatter added. “We have positioned the program to meet business needs through customized assessment and improvement of key processes.”

Villines served as a national Baldrige Examiner in 2015, holds a master’s degree in public administration from Arkansas State University Jonesboro, and is the current state President of the service organization, Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

ASCP Recognizes State Chamber/AIA with Two Awards

The Association of State Chamber Professionals (ASCP) recognized the State Chamber/AIA with two awards, Greatest Growth in Total Revenue and Greatest Growth in Membership Dues, during a joint conference in September with the Council of State Chambers and the U.S. Chamber Regional Team.
Leadership Arkansas Graduates Class XII, Begins Class XIII

Leadership Arkansas Class XII continued its sessions during 2018 in El Dorado, Camden and Magnolia; West Memphis and Blytheville; Hot Springs; Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville; and Little Rock. The Underwriting Sponsor for Class XII was The Citizens Bank of Batesville. The Presenting Sponsor was ARcare, and the Statewide Program Sponsors were Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit of Arkansas, Mitchell Communications, Nucor-Steel-Arkansas, Southwest Power Pool and Walmart.
Class XII

Bootsie Ackerman
US House of Representatives
Congressman Steve Womack

Allison Atkinson
Southwest EAP

Josh Baker
Simmons Bank

Catherine Bays
Museum of Discovery

Micah Beard
Citizens Bank

Matthew Boch
Dover Dixon Home PLLC

John Bonner
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance
Company of Arkansas

Zac Bradley
Arkansas Farm Bureau

Ruth Bradley-Weyland
Tyson Foods, Inc.

Ryan Brewer
Nucor-Yamato Steel

Rick Cazenave
Lanxess

Donald Clark
Arkansas Air National Guard

Todd Clark
University of Arkansas

Jacob Coleman
The First Tee of Central Arkansas

Anderson Cranford
Cranford Co.

Alisha Curtis
Governor Asa Hutchinson

Richard Dedmon
Big River Steel

Leon Dodroe
Arkansas Air National Guard

Olin Ericksen
Mitchell Communications Group

Phillip Fletcher
The City of Hope Outreach

Jason Gazaway
Gazaway & White Real Estate

Natalie Ghidotti
Ghidotti Communications

Austin Grinder
Mullenix & Associates

Jensyn Hallett
Heifer International

Matthew Hoffman
Miller Baskus Lock Architects

Erin Hogue
Walmart Foundation

Tamika Jenkins
Mississippi Co. Economic Development

Julie Kelso
Crafton Tull

Mary Lackie
University of Arkansas Fort Smith

Steven Lamm
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Kim Lane
Conductor

Fredrick Love
Pulaski County Community Services

Meredith Lowry
Wright Lindsey & Jennings, LLP

Richard Madison
City of Bryant

Daniel Martinez
Windstream Communications

Jeff Mascagni
Central Arkansas Water

Esperanza Massana-Crane
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Jeffery Mullen
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Stephanie Neipling
U of A System, Division of Agriculture

Ron Petrie
Garver, LLC

Ryan Prejean
Entergy

Ashley Riddle
Delta Dental of Arkansas

Lori Ross
Citizens Bank

Laurie Rushing
Trademark Real Estate Co.

Rhonda Sanders
Arkansas Foodbank

Kurt Schrock
Tyson Foods, Inc.

James Shackelford
ARcare

Robert Shields
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Tag Short
MISO

Jeremy Sparks
Tyson Foods, Inc.

John Spencer
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Curt Stamp
Cox Communications

Jeremy Stell
Koontz Electric Company, Inc.

Alesse Stroud
Corporate Insight Strategy

Scott Tollett
Ritter Communications, Inc.

Derek Wingfield
Southwest Power Pool

Group tour of Riceland Foods at the Agriculture & Outdoor Life Session in Stuttgart in December.
LEADERSHIP ARKANSAS

Meredith Lowry, Tamika Jenkins and Erin Hogue at the Conifex Timber Saw Mill in El Dorado during the Natural Resources, Defense & Industrial Development Session in January.

Jensyn Hallett, Esperanza Massana-Crane, Alicia Curtis, Toni Lindsey and Kim Lane at the Duck Blinds Tour with Arkansas Game and Fish at Stuttgart in December.

Arkansas Razorback Head Football Coach Chad Morris addresses Class XII members at the U of A – Fayetteville during the Regional Development Session in April.

Group tour of Nucor Arkansas in Blytheville at the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Education Session in February.
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 600 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 gain:

- 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 Toni Lindsey, Leadership Arkansas Program Director, at tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com or (479) 409-4389.
Leadership Arkansas Class XIII Selects 62 Members

Sixty-two individuals from throughout Arkansas were selected for Leadership Arkansas Class XIII. The Underwriting Sponsor for the 2018-2019 Leadership Arkansas program is The Citizens Bank of Batesville. The Presenting Sponsor is AHCare. Statewide Program Sponsors are Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit Services of Arkansas, Nucor Steel Arkansas, Southwest Power Pool and Walmart.

Leadership Arkansas Class XIII began with a retreat and opening session on Sept. 30 at the Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs. Session II covering Education and Workforce was held Nov. 1-2 in Batesville.

Session III covering Government & Military was held Nov. 27-28 in Little Rock and Jacksonville. Session IV covering Agriculture & Outdoor Life was held Dec. 10-11 in Stuttgart.
Class XIII

Ashten Adamson
Riceland Foods

Dina Bates
Arkansas Farm Bureau Insurance

Dan Beranek
McClelland Consulting Engineers

Len Blaylock, III
Bradley County Economic Development Commission

Darrell Boggs
Arkansas81

Jordan Burgess
Delta Dental of Arkansas

Tom Crimmins
Arkansas Air National Guard

Capos “Chip” Culpepper II
Mangan Holcomb Partner

Hollie Cummings
Walmart

Kerrie Diaz
Synder Environmental

Chase Dugger
JCD Consulting Services

Bailey Faulkner
Ozark Mission Project, Inc.

Rebekah Fincher
Conway Regional Health System

William Fletcher
Kinco Constructors, LLC

David Fonvielle
MISO

Kristin Garner
Legacy Equipment, LLC

Pody Gay
Museum of Discovery

Lisa Gazaway
Gazaway & White Real Estate

Katherine Gentry
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Anna Beth Gorman
Women’s Foundation of Arkansas

Chris Gosnell
Farmers Bank and Trust

Michael Goswami
Rose Law Firm

Adrienne Griffis
Dover Dixon Horne PLLC

Jordan Hale
UAFS

Burt Hicks
Simmons First Investment Group, Inc.

Michael Hoggard
Citizens Bank

Kendra Jones
Tyson Foods, Inc.

David Kelley
Southwest Power Pool

Kelsey Kelton
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Chris Knollmeyer
Ben E. Keith Foods

Victoria Lamb
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Laura Landreaux
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

Sarah Lane
Citizens Bank

Margot Lemaster
Northwest Arkansas Council

Gregg Long
Crafton Tull

Jason McGehee
Office of Congressman Bruce Westerman

Jim McGill
SFI

Vanessa Moody
Office of Senator Tom Cotton

Jaimie Moss
Wright Lindsey Jennings

Robert Mouser
Ritter Communications

Keegan Nichols
Arkansas Tech University

Jason Orlicek
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Meredith Pettigrew
Mitchell Communications

Mindy Pipkin
University of Central Arkansas

Dawn Prasifka
Girl Scouts - Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas

William Ratliff
ARCare

Matt Rickford
Nabholz Construction

Anna Roepcke
Batesville Schools

Reggie Rose
Simmons Bank

Jennifer Schalow
Craft Beer Cellar

Charles Smith
Metro Disaster Specialists

Bill Solleder
Visit Hot Springs

Christopher Story
Arkansas Broadcasters Association

Brandy Sweeney
City of Harrisburg

Hilary Trudell
University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service

Kevin Weldon
Nucor Steel Arkansas

Lea Whitlock
Arkansas Community Foundation

Lawren Wilcox
Garver

Temeka Williams
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Emily Wood
University of Arkansas

Amiee York
Black Hills Energy

Members of Class XIII in front of a Blackhawk helicopter at the Little Rock Air Force Base.
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 web site; special recognition at all State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events, such as the Annual Meeting and the Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner, and networking opportunities with other high-level Arkansas business and industry leaders.
Thanks to the Following New and Upgraded State Chamber/AIA Members in 2018

3M Corporation
Alessi-Keyes Construction
Alma Area Chamber of Commerce
Amuni Financial
A.P. Supply Co.
APAC Arkansas Inc.
Apex Staffing, Inc.
APTUS Financial
Arkansas Air Ambulance
Arkansas Business
Arkansas Children’s Hospital
Arkansas Conductor
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Arkansas Family Health Foundation
Arkansas Home Builders Association
Arkansas Mechanical LLC
Arkansas Pediatric Dentistry
Arkansas Surgical Hospital
Aristotle, Inc.
B&B Oil Company, Inc.
Banana Graphics
BancorpSouth
Bank of Little Rock Mortgage Corporation
Benchmark Group
Beverly’s Construction
Big River Steel
B.R. McGinty Mechanical Contractors
Brandon Moving & Storage
America’s Car-Mart Inc.
CAT2, Inc

Causey Law Firm
Centennial Bank
Central Flying Service Inc.
Central Moloney Inc.
The Chancellor Hotel
Community Compass Centers of Arkansas
Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc. (CED)
Cotham’s in the City
Crist Engineers, Inc.
CT&T Inc. a PEC Company
Don’s Cold Storage & Logistics
Dyne Hospitality Group
Eaton Corporation
Enable Midstream Partners
Families, Inc. of Arkansas
First National Bank of Wynne, AR
The First Tee of Central Arkansas
ForeverCare
FPEC Corporation
G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc.
GBMc & Associates
General Cable Paragould
Green Bay Packaging Inc.
Arkansas Kraft Division
Grillight
Heritage Catering
The Hodges Group
Holiday Inn Presidential
Hospice Home Care, Inc.
Hot Springs Village POA

iDatafy
International Fire Protection
Jackson Brown Architects
Palculict Architects
JBM Tire & Wheel Wholesale LLC
Kimbel Mechanical Systems
KLF & Company
LaCroix Precision Optics
Legacy National Bank
Loggins Logistics, Inc.
Lynx FBO Network
Lyon College
McKenzie Sweepmaster
MedEvolve, Inc.
Medical Associates of NW/A, PA
MHC Truck Leasing
Little Rock
Miller Electric Company
MISO
Mountain Mechanical Contractors Inc.
National Guard Association of Arkansas
Northwest Health
Ozark Guidance Center, Inc.
Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Co.
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Pleasant Valley Country Club
Pleasant Valley Nursing & Rehabilitation

Proficient Consulting Group, LLC
Pulaski County Title
Rasco Winter
Riverview Behavioral Health, LLC
Rocwell Automation
Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce
Saint Mary's Regional Health System
The Sells Agency
Setrek, Inc. dba Home Instead Senior Care
Southern Branding
Staley Inc. dba Staley Technologies
Standard Abstract & Title Company, Inc.
Star Transportation LLC
Stein LTC
Southwest EAP
TAC Air
Taggart Architects
Tell Me More
Today’s Power, Inc.
Tokusek U. S. A. Inc.
Transplace Stuttgart
UALR ASBTDC
Ultimate Technical Academy
Union Plaza Commercial Real Estate LLC
Unique Prescotech Industries Inc.
U.S. Small Business Administration
SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS

The Following Members and Organizations Sponsored State Chamber/AIA Events and Purchased Advertising in 2018

Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Arkansas Economic Development Institute
AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company
Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation
W&W/AFCO Steel LLC
Alcoa, Inc.
America’s Car-Mart Inc.
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Arkansas Business
The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Learns
Arkansas Tech University
Arkansas Valley Alliance for Economic Development
ARcare
Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber of Commerce
Arvest Bank
AR School for Mathematics, Sciences & the Arts
AT&T Arkansas
Baldwin & Shell Construction Company
Bank of The Ozarks
Barber Law Firm PLLC
Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce
Ben E. Keith Company
Big River Steel
BKD, LLP
Black Hills Energy
Brent Stevenson Associates
America's Car-Mart Inc.
Caterpillar Inc.
CDI Contractors LLC
CenterPoint Energy
Central Moloney Inc.
Citizens Bank
CJRW
Clearwater Paper Corporation
Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
Cox Communications
Cross County Chamber of Commerce/Wynne
EDC/Tech Center
Cross Gunter Witherspoon & Galchus P.C.
Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.
Delta Dental of Arkansas Inc.
Domtar
Dover Dixon Horne PLLC
Entergy Arkansas
Evergreen Packaging
Farm Credit Services of AR First Community Bank
Edwards Food Giant
Flywheel Energy
Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce
FutureFuel Chemical Company
Gar-Bro Manufacturing Company
Garver
Gerdau Special Steel
Girl Scouts Diamonds of AR, OK & TX
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas
Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Hot Springs Metro Partnership
Hot Springs Title Company
Hot Springs Village POA
International Paper Company
Kiswire Pine Bluff, Inc.
Koontz Electric Company Inc.
Kutak Rock LLP
Lanexs Solutions Inc.
Liberty Utilities (Missouri)
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Mainstream Technologies, Inc.
McGeorge Contracting Company Inc.
McGriff Insurance
McKee Foods Corporation
MHP/Team SI
Mitchell Williams
Selig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC
Nabholz Construction Services
Northwest Technical Institute
Nucor/Nucor Yamato
Pain Treatment Centers of America
Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Company
Riceland Foods Inc.
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
Rose Law Firm
Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce
SCORE
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Simmons Bank
Southland Gaming
Stephens Inc.
Stephens Production Company
Southwest Power Pool
Southwestern Energy Company
TCPrint Solutions
Tokusen U. S. A. Inc.
Tyson Foods, Inc.
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
UALR ASBTDC
Union Pacific Railroad
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Small Business Administration
U.S. Bank
Walmart Inc.
Welspun Tubular, LLC
Windstream
The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP
XTO Energy, Inc., an ExxonMobil subsidiary

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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 Trish Villines at 501-372-2222, tvillines@arkansasstatechamber.com or visit the website at www.arkansas-quality.org.

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.
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 or 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.
BE PRO BE PROUD PROGRESS (LAUNCH THROUGH 3Q 2018)

PICTURING OUR PROGRESS

41,969
387 TOUR STOPS
220 Cities Visited
12,303 people joined the movement

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BE PRO BE PROUD INITIATIVE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ BEPROBEProud.ORG.

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ARKANSAS
STATE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

ASSOCIATED
INDUSTRIES OF
ARKANSAS

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Train

Assess

Recognize

Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence

Helping Arkansas Business Excel

We offer training to help your organization excel.

• Governor’s Quality Award Program
  - Applicant Training
  - Board of Examiner Training
• Assessment Services
• Healthcare Seminar
• Webinars
• Workshops
  - ISO 9001:2015
  - Management Skills for Frontline Managers
  - Organizational Profile: Define Your Context
  - Cybersecurity

“Meaningful feedback reports motivated us to change and improve. Not just improve end-of-production-line quality, but quality in every aspect of our operations. How we interact, track and improve customer relations. How we improve the work experience of our employees. How we work with vendors to verify the quality of purchased components and build partnerships. And finally the impact we have on our community. We are a much better company today than when we started the journey, especially where it counts most, on the bottom line.”

CHRIS WEISER, President
JV Manufacturing Inc.
Springdale
2014 Recipient of the Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence

“When we began this process a little over five years ago, we ‘thought’ we were pretty good at what we did. Going through the Governor’s Quality Awards process quickly taught us that just thinking we were good wasn’t good enough. Our standards are higher now, as is our ability to meet them. DD&F is a better company than it was five years ago. I would encourage any organization or business that is truly committed to excellence to consider getting involved.”

RANDY DENNIS, President
DD&F Consulting Group
Little Rock
2016 Recipient of the Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence

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