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# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2013

## Upcoming Events

### JULY

#### Tips and Leads 1

July 2 | 11:45 am

#### July 4 Holiday

Chamber office closed July 4 & 5

#### Tips and Leads 3

July 8 | 11:45 am

#### Tips and Leads 2

July 9 | 11:45 am

#### Ambassador Team Meeting

July 10 | 7:30 am

#### Member Orientation

July 10 | 12 noon-1 pm

#### Banks in Harmony

Buckstein - Country Rock  
Utah Park  
1700 S. Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012  
July 11 | 6:30-8 pm

#### Leadership Aurora Application Deadline

July 15

#### Tips and Leads 1

July 16 | 1:45 am

#### Banks in Harmony

Chris Daniel & the Kings -  
Roots Rock & Roll with Horns  
Utah Park  
1700 S. Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012  
July 18 | 6:30-8 pm

#### Tips and Leads 3

July 22 | 11:45 am

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## Colorado Thirty Group Highlights Buckley AFB in Washington DC



*(Photo courtesy of Canadian Embassy)*

Chair of the Chamber's Defense Council Lisa Buckley, along with Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougén, Gov. John Hickenlooper, and other members of the distinguished Colorado Thirty Group traveled to Washington DC, May 19-22. The group visited with the Colorado Congressional Delegation, Senior Military leadership at the Pentagon, and held briefings with the House and Senate



Leadership and Committee Chairs for the Armed Services.

The purpose of the trip was to highlight the military presence in Colorado, including Buckley AFB.

"Representing the Aurora Chamber, our efforts were directed to showing DoD leadership the opportunity Buckley AFB has for future growth through expansion," Buckley said. "We also pointed out how important this was to maintaining associated industries throughout Colorado."

The group met with Congressman Steven Palazzo from Mississippi who sits on the House Armed Services Science and Technology Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. "We are confident the Congressman walked away knowing that Buckley AFB was a prime candidate for growth and expansion of military operations," Buckley stated. ■

## Chamber Safety Group Program Seeking New Members

The Chamber's Safety Group Program, through Pinnacol Assurance, is actively seeking new members. The Program has been revamped, but still offers a 4% safety group discount on premiums, and eligibility to receive dividends.

Qualifying businesses need to meet the requirements of the new program, which include attending two Pinnacol-approved safety trainings per year, demonstrating effective hiring, risk and claims management, implementation of a return-to-work program, designation and utilization of Pinnacol SelectNet providers for worker's compensation claims, and completion of an annual premium audit.

By adhering to these requirements, businesses not only have a better chance of qualifying for a dividend, they also have less on-the-job injuries — which translates to less lost time, and therefore a more productive workforce.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is committed to making the new safety group program a long-term success. If you are interested in finding out more, contact [mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org). ■



facebook

## SAVE THE DATE For A Tasty Treat!



**September 19, 2013**

Red Lion Hotel  
3200 S Parker Rd, Aurora, CO 80014  
More delicious details to come!



**Jeff Thompson**  
Chair

# Chair'sLetter

## New year; same chairman.

As noted in my last newsletter, due to unexpected vacancies in the leadership chain for The Chamber's Board of Directors,

you will have yours' truly for another year as Chairman of the Board. First and foremost, I'm extremely honored and proud that the Board and the Executive Leadership of The Chamber have continued confidence in my abilities to do the job for a second year. I can honestly say that if it was not for the excellent Chamber staff led by Kevin Hougan — a well-respected fixture in the **City of Aurora** — along with a superb Board of Directors, I would not have accepted the position of Chairman a year ago, let alone for a second go around.

As I begin this second year as your chairman we have already begun to take a look "inside" The Chamber — at the Board and staff — for self-examination of our relevance and significance to our membership; and what we can do strategically to make The Chamber the business support organization that companies in Aurora want to join!

I have been associated most all of my adult life with organizations, having served on numerous Boards of charitable organizations (even helping to create one - the Men for the Cure Foundation after my wife Diane passed away from breast cancer); and also professional business/trade organizations such as The Chamber. As I began my "career life" after grad

school, I was the Executive Director of the Colorado Dental Association, a statewide professional association. And in my experience with membership organizations, like the CDA, the greatest challenge is in recruiting and retaining members — which are the lifeline of these organizations. And I truly believe that it all comes down to expectations and relevance — in other words "what can that organization do for me?"

### Chamber Evaluation

As we have all struggled during the last several years through an economic downturn, recruitment and retention becomes even more challenging for membership associations. The good news economically is that we in Colorado and Aurora are beginning to see some positive signs of recovery — slowly but surely. However, during the down years, The Chamber has struggled a bit, mostly in membership retention. Thus my point, it all comes down to expectations and relevance — "What do I, as a businessperson, expect of The Chamber and what am I getting for my annual dues dollars?"

So, that is the question that your Chamber Board of Directors is asking — and doing something to respond. Our immediate past Chairman, Dave Gruber, is heading up a Board subcommittee to address this question, and we are taking a hard look at the Chamber's strategic initiatives going forward.

Frankly, I see The Aurora Chamber of Commerce doing more on a day- to-day basis to support the business community than most

members ever see. Probably the most significant impact is through our Public Issues - Government Affair and Education Committee, chaired by Tom Henley of **Xcel Energy**, along with Vice Chair Polly Page. Through this committee and our Chamber contract lobbyists, we are a strong voice at the State Capitol and at City Hall — as well as with our Colorado Congressional Delegation. Often times, in collaboration with other Chambers and business organizations, we are very visible with our elected public officials in representing and protecting business interests. Our challenge, quite frankly, is how do we better communicate with our members as to what we are accomplishing on your behalf? Also, how can we better advise our members about key issues and engage you, in "calls to action," to contact public officials in order to express positions on legislation or public policy initiatives? Also, how can The Chamber better inform our members of how our elected officials are performing relative to issues important to Chamber members? Tom and his committee, along with the Board, are taking steps to address these sorts of "communication" questions and challenges.

### Chamber Relevance

Also, I do believe that The Chamber has done much just within the last couple years to increase our visibility and relevance (there's that word again) with key and growing segments of our business community — namely women business leaders and young

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## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health

#### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David Gruber |

#### PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED

Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouse

#### SECRETARY

David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

#### TREASURER

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

#### VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

#### VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

#### VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Bob Jamieson | Mutual of Omaha

#### VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Tom Henley | Xcel Energy

### DIRECTORS

Jason Altshuler | Westerra Credit Union

Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center

Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Randy Berner | Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Larry Borland | CenturyLink

Lisa Buckley | American Automation

Reneé Gullickson | Wells Fargo Bank

Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran Affairs

Todd Landgrave | Northrop Grumman

Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant

Suzanne Pitrusu | Colorado Business Bank

Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Credit Union

Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthOne

Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanente

Michael Wukitsch | Children's Hospital Colorado

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Col. Floyd Dunstan | 140th Wing COANG

Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development

The Honorable Steve Hogan | Mayor, City of Aurora

Bill Holen | Arapahoe County Commissioner

Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council

Ron Weidmann | City of Centennial Mayor Pro-Tem

Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora

### STAFF

Kevin Hougan | President and CEO

Naomi Colwell | Marketing Director

Kimberly Curtis | Leadership Director

Chance Horiuchi | Business Development Director

Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director

George Peck | Senior Vice President

Paul Rosenberg | VP, Membership Development

Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director

Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services Director

Judy Booth | Volunteer

Ben Knell and Khrist Thomas | ITT Technical Institute Interns

### ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

Judy Emery | Healthcare Partnership Project Manager

.....

Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc./Newsletter Design

### DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

### THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to serve as a voice for the business community, acting as an advocate for its members on issues that affect their growth and long-term economic vitality.



## New CEO/Executive Director at Developmental Pathways

Following a year as the interim CEO/Executive Director of **Developmental Pathways**, Melanie Worley was officially appointed to the position May 1, 2013. **Developmental Pathways** serves individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental delays in **Arapahoe County**, Douglas County, and the **City of Aurora**.

"I am honored and delighted to run an organization where the entire team, from our board of directors to our direct care staff, believes in doing all that we can to enrich lives and strengthen our community," said Worley.

## Aurora School Board seeks candidates

The **Aurora Public School District** is seeking candidates to run for their Board of Education in November. Four seats will open this year on the seven-member group which establishes policies for the school district. The Board addresses the concerns of the local community and is instrumental in approving curricula and instruction materials, evaluating the superintendent and adopting the annual budget.

Board members run on a non-partisan basis, serve for four years and do not need to be educators, but must live within the district which serves north, northeast and much of central Aurora.

Those interested in running for the open seats or have questions about the process or responsibilities can learn more by attending an informational meeting for community members on Tuesday, July 30 at 6 p.m. at the APS Educational Services Center. 41085 Peoria St., Aurora CO 80011.

For additional information, call APS at 303-344-8060, ext. 28009 or visit the web site at [boe.aurorak12.org/election](http://boe.aurorak12.org/election).

## Booz Allen volunteers make house safer

This spring, a team of volunteers from **Booz Allen Hamilton** demonstrated the management and technology consulting firm's "Spirit of Service" by helping to make a grandmother's home safer and healthier. Alongside longtime community partner Rebuilding Together Metro Denver, **Booz Allen** volunteers replaced a stove, fixed flooring, and installed smoke detectors, carbon monoxide monitors, and a fire extinguisher - along with other repairs.

"Giving back to the communities in which we live and work is an essential part of the **Booz Allen** brand," said Laura Hayman, **Booz Allen Hamilton's** Community Partnerships Manager.

## Frontier receives award from UVC

**Frontier Airlines** was recently presented with the Outstanding Public Organization award by the **United Veterans Committee of Colorado** at its 41st annual awards banquet. The award was presented as appreciation for **Frontier's** dedication and commitment to Colorado military veterans and their families.

## Julie Skeen joins David Evans and Associates

Julie Keen has joined **David Evans and Associates** as the firm-wide Transit and Railroad Segment Manager. Located in the Denver office, Julie comes from Jacobs engineering, where she was Deputy Program Manager for the \$7 billion FasTracks Program Support Contract. Julie is a senior planner and program manager with more than 29 years of consulting.



Julie Keen

## Colorado National Guard supporting fire fighting efforts

The **Colorado National Guard**, including elements from Buckley AFB's Army Aviation Support Center supported incident commanders at three different fires throughout the state of Colorado; the West Fork fire complex, and the East Peak and Lime Gulch fires.

Support included security, firefighters, communications and equipment including high capacity off-road firefighting trucks and waters tenders as well as aviation including CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

## Merrick Forms Alliance with TG Engineering

**Merrick & Company** and TG Engineering Inc. recently announced the formation of a strategic alliance between the two firms in order to expand service offerings to the oil and gas industries and related markets. Both firms have extensive capabilities and the strategic alliance establishes the team as a key resource for the expanding oil and gas industry.

## Security Service launches new ad campaigns

**Security Service Federal Credit Union** recently launched a new advertising campaign targeting bilingual, bicultural members and a second campaign focused on what great customer service feels like. The campaigns are comprised of several television and radio spots and billboards, showcasing both the expected and unexpected humor in life.

The ads are scheduled to air in three states: Texas, Colorado, and Utah. "With ads that run the gamut from puppies to piñatas, there's something everyone can relate to as we share what service means to us," says Greg Stroud, vice president of Sales and Marketing at Security Service. To view the ads, go to YouTube and type in **Security Service Federal Credit Union**.

## Unit 304 offers LinkedIn video service

Recently, LinkedIn announced that users are able to add videos directly to

their profile pages without installing and configuring apps. Shortly after, **Unit 304 Video Production LLC**, announced the launch of their new LinkedIn Profile Video service for businesses, groups and individuals.

"Video is an extremely effective medium for communicating virtually any message," says Bruce Barr, owner of **Unit 304**. "When people view a video on someone's LinkedIn profile, they get to look into their eyes and hear them talk about their experience, skill sets and goals. It's very powerful." The videos can also be posted on YouTube, company or personal web sites, and other social media sites.

**Unit 304 Video Production** offers individual and group rates, and Chamber members can receive an additional 10 percent discount. For more information, including pricing go to [www.LinkedinProfileVideos.com](http://www.LinkedinProfileVideos.com) or call/email 720-398-3578/info@linkedinprofilevideos.com. Be sure to mention that you are a Chamber member.

## Tinnirello Runs the Spartan

**Anchor Network Solutions' CEO** Vince Tinnirello recently ran the Spartan Race, a global race which Tinnirello says was designed by seven insane ultra-athletes and a Royal Marine. The course was 4.7 miles with 17 obstacles total. Pictured is Vince (right) after the race, looking pretty good - aside from all the mud. ■



## Early Morning Networking



The Chamber's networking events usually bring a good crowd - no matter what time of day it is. Pictured above is the June 12 Business Before Hours at the Aurora Municipal Center lobby. Can you recognize your fellow Chamber members by the tops of their heads?

Be sure to open your Chamber eblasts on Tuesdays and Thursdays to find out when networking events are happening! (photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

# Leadership, turbo-charged

## Get out of it what you put into it

By Teri Karjala

Creative Counseling Center, LLC

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of joining the Leadership Aurora program through the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Each of the major chambers of commerce in Colorado offer similar programs. I chose the Aurora program because I have been a member of this Chamber for more than six years, and because they have been very good to me and to my business.

When I shared my experience in the program recently, I was met with a fair amount of skepticism. Here's my take on anything in life: You get out of it what you put into it. If you work at something and make the most of it, you will reap the benefits.

Now, having said that, is there a time commitment? Is there work outside of "class?" Will there be times when you will have to "lead" and times when you will feel a little overwhelmed? Yes, yes, yes, and yes!

However, another set of questions might be even more pertinent. Will I have fun? Will I create lasting friendships and unforgettable memories? Will I develop trusted business partnerships? Will I grow as a leader? Will I become more involved in my community and make a difference in the world? Yes, yes, yes, yes, and yes!

Mahatma Gandhi said it best, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." There are a slew of benefits I have reaped from this experience, despite sometimes working harder than I'd originally thought would be necessary, despite moments (transitory!) of feeling a tad overwhelmed:

1. Connections: I have met and created many personal and professional connections, not only amongst my classmates, but in the community as well.
2. Adventures: I have been a part of amazing opportunities that I would otherwise never

have experienced, such as being granted access to a high security military base, extinguishing a fire and even being attacked by police dogs, thankfully in dog attack gear.

3. Knowledge: I have been exposed to many community organizations that I never knew existed and now have the knowledge on how to provide support on a pay-it-forward basis.
4. Exposure: The many, many adventures that I had through the Leadership Aurora program also served as a great way to promote what our business was up to in the community on our own social media outlets.
5. Leadership: I was placed in leadership roles that contributed to my knowledge and leadership experience.
6. Philanthropy: We had a huge effect in the community with our big and small class projects. Our class was so dynamic that we even had some nay-sayers think that we "couldn't" pull off our vision. We showed them.
7. Education: Our community day classes were filled with unbelievable information about the community. We were exposed to aspects that most never see.
8. Impact: Our Pay -It-Forward project will continue to have its impact on the community by encouraging future leaders to take part in improving their community along with many other projects. We were able to impact our community - extremely satisfying.

Despite the myriad of benefits listed above, you might still be wondering if the program really helped my business.

Through connections I made in the program, I hired my new administrative support staff, hired one of our therapists, presented at two large companies, created a professional video



on our website, got free tools to grow my business, boosted our social media following and found a media intern - among other things. Not bad for a small business owner and a \$1,000 investment.

Tips to follow to make the most out of your leadership experience:

1. Set your intentions on how you "show up."
2. When you meet people, follow up!
3. Volunteer and get involved! The more active and involved you are, the more it will pay off for you. You will have plenty of opportunities to do so.
4. Be positive. No one enjoys being around a negative Nancy.
5. Play on your strengths. When it comes to leadership, know what you are good at and help the group in those ways.
6. Get out of your comfort zone. Take on new risks.
7. Have fun! Enjoy the time that you have. The year goes by fast!

Examine the ways a program like this could benefit you and your business. Get out there and stretch yourself, improve your skills, make connections and "be the change." I will cheer you on and, as always, would love to hear from you. ■

*Teri Karjala is a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist. She can be reached directly at: [terikarjala@creativecounselingcenter.com](mailto:terikarjala@creativecounselingcenter.com). Article reprinted with permission from the author, originally published in CoBiz Magazine.*

## Leadership Aurora Celebrates Completion of Legacy Project at the Fox

Aurora City Manager Skip Noe and 2013 Leadership Aurora class members cut the ribbon at the entrance of Studio B in the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**, celebrating the completion of their class Legacy Project which included conceptual design services for a new main entry handicap access ramp, and removal and rebuilding of the existing patron seating risers.

The Aurora Fox Studio Theater was originally built as a rehearsal space then converted for performances in 2008. With more than 100 performances a year, as well as hundreds of rehearsals and classes, the studio has become a key facility serving Aurora's cultural life.

While the current facility is accessible, patrons in wheelchairs must navigate through a labyrinth of non-public spaces to

get to their seats. The goal of the project was to implement a new, fully accessible main entrance that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The conceptual design work, provided by Leadership Aurora class member Stanley Turner of Insula Design Studio, was intended to define a new Studio identity, and to support future fund raising.

The seating riser re-building was the brain-child of Fox Executive Producer Charles Packard. The Leadership Aurora class worked on the project more than 450 total labor hours, collected more than \$8,750 in donated materials, and raised more than \$6,350 to pay for remaining material costs. The estimated value of the new riser project is well in excess of \$20,000. ■



*Aurora City Manager Skip Noe cut the ribbon with 2013 Leadership Aurora class members at the entrance of Studio B in the Aurora Fox Arts Center.*



# Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament Scores Well



The proud winners of the 2013 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament - with a score of 47! (inset) - from left to right: Leo Legere, Carson Henry, John Reid of **Metro Community Provider Network**, and Evan Bardwell.

75	65	64
62	58	58
57	71	63
79	86	86
95	83	81
65	87	63
47	62	62
59	61	75



Second Place went to **FirstBank**. Left to right are **FirstBank President** Dave Mittan, Rob Chaney, Ryan Willis, and Paul Plaksin.



The Third Place winners were left to right Dan Law, Jeff Niblo, Eric Marburger, and Dan Ward - of the **Abilene Awards** team.



Special thanks this year's event sponsors, **Rural/Metro Ambulance** and **Goodwill Industries**. Left: Director of **Leadership Aurora** Kimberly Curtis, and Division General Manager of **Rural/Metro Ambulance** David Patterson. Right: Kimberly and Director of Career Development Services at **Goodwill Industries** of Denver David Cessna.



The **Advantage Security** team certainly had fun on the golf course, and a special "award" was given this year to Ryan Evans for "best dressed." His prize? A pair of colorful golf shorts for next year's tournament! (inset) Ryan served on the Golf Tournament planning committee. Left to right are Ryan Evans, Chris Read, and Jennifer Evans with **Advantage Security**, and Tim Thomsen.



## Presenting: The Leadership Aurora Board



Pictured above are the hard-working members of the Leadership Aurora Board. Board members, who are all graduates of the program, tirelessly contribute their time, energy, and enthusiasm to planning each monthly session. They volunteer long hours to make sure the program provides meaning, value, and exceptional experiences for the participants.

Front Row, L-R - Randy Berner, **Adolfson & Peterson Construction**; Michelle Wolfe, **City of Aurora**; Kimberly Curtis, **The Chamber**; Ryan Evans, **Advantage Security, Inc.**

Second Row, L-R - Antoinette Dow, **Providers' Resource Clearinghouse**; Randy Kehn, **Colorado Air National Guard**; Sarah Ellis, **Exempla Lutheran Medical Center**; Jane McGrath, Retired **Cherry Creek Schools**; Maureen Barker, **Citywide Banks**; Rachel Banks, **Adams County Workforce**; Ana-Christina, **Tools of Hope**; Cassidee Carlson, **Aurora Police Department**; Mike Garcia, **Hurricane Grill & Wings**

Third Row, L-R - Barbara Peck, **In Your Element Photography, Inc.**; Rob Chaney, **FirstBank of Aurora**; Bob Jamieson, **Mutual of Omaha**; Josh Hensley, **Aurora Public Schools**; Chris Lockwood, **Rural/Metro Ambulance**; Wendy DeBell, **Cherry Creek Schools**

Not Pictured: Fran Gomez, **Aurora Police Department**; Chris Henderson, **Aurora Fire Department**; Christy Jones, **DPRA, Inc.**; Cindy Kreutz, **Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital**; Keith Peterson, **University of Colorado Health**; and Debra Scarpella, **Goodwill Industries of Denver**  
(Photo courtesy of Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography, Inc.)



# RibbonCuttings



**Ribbon Solutions at the AMC** — Stacey Craig of **Compassionate Life Solutions** celebrates her business with a ribbon cutting held at the Aurora Municipal Building. Stacey received help from the Aurora Business Development Center to establish her business. **Compassionate Life Solutions** specializes in senior move management, downsizing, and estate liquidation. Stacy can be reached at (303) 750-2956. (Chamber photo)



**It's a big day for Old Chicago** — **Old Chicago** restaurants celebrated their nationwide rebranding with synchronized ribbon cuttings across the country on May 16 at 10:30 a.m. The Aurora Chamber was at three of them (top to bottom): 16990 E. Iliff Ave., 6105 E. Main St. at Southlands, and 6676 S. Parker Rd., at Arapahoe Crossing.

At the Iliff Ave. location (top), General Manager Andrea Brynjulson cuts the dough ribbon; at Southlands (center), General Manager Toby Foster works the scissors; and at Arapahoe Crossing (bottom), General Manager Taylor Reeves proudly cuts the dough ribbon - as well as the traditional red ribbon. The nationwide event celebrated a new logo as well as new menu items for the **Old Chicago** restaurants that have been around since 1976. (Chamber Photos)



**A Second Chance to Find the Perfect Thing** — Renee Clay-Handley, general manager of the **2nd and Charles** at 6606 S. Parker Rd. in Arapahoe Crossings happily slices through the ribbon for the opening of the store. The concept behind **2nd and Charles** is that you have something, but don't need it anymore; and someone else wants it, and doesn't have it -and that's where **2nd and Charles** comes in. **2nd and Charles** buys, sells, and trades books, games, tech, and more. It's a great way to reuse things, and helps more people find something they'll enjoy, for less. And since their inventory changes every day, there's always something different. (Chamber photo)



**Building Character for a Lifetime**® — The **PRO Martial Arts** at 1630 E. Quincy Ave. celebrates their ribbon cutting with some of their youngest clients, as well as some of the instructors, and owner Kevin Hixson — doing the honors of cutting the ribbon.

**PRO Martial Arts'** curriculum of martial arts techniques are drawn from the Korean arts of Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido. In addition, **PRO Martial Arts** has a Life Skills Training program, helping kids to learn the value of a lifestyle of quiet confidence, poise, and fulfillment. What's more, at the core of every **PRO Martial Arts** lesson is their exclusive bullying and predator prevention curriculum called Armor™ — specifically designed to keep children safe in both the real world and online. (Chamber photo)



## RIBBON CUTTINGS (con't)



**This party ROCKS!** — Ron Willard, owner of the **School of Rock** at 13750 E. Rice Place, is keeping the beat as he cuts the ribbon to celebrate the newest location of the school that is inspiring the world to rock on stage and in life! The school offers classes in technique and theory, classes for the youngest musicians, a variety of camps, and weekly private music lessons on guitar, bass guitar, vocals, and keys and/or drums, technique and music theory. If rock is what you want, **School of Rock** is where it is. (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris Photographer)

**It's a good hair day!** — Michelle Sugerman, team leader at the **SportClips** at 10551 E. Garden Dr., Suite 102 in the Gardens at Havana, can cut a ribbon as well as hair! The **SportClips** experience includes sports on TV, a relaxing neck and shoulder massage, legendary barbershop-style steamed towel treatment, and a great haircut from Guy-Smart stylists who specialize in men's and boys' hair care. It's what they call the MVP Treatment, and it takes about 20 minutes. (inset) Chamber President Kevin Hougen sampled the service during the ribbon cutting ceremony at **SportClips**. (Chamber photo)



**Retain the moisture!** — Terrilynn Moore of **TriLipid Research Institute, LLC**, celebrates her business with a Chamber ribbon cutting. Her product, **Trilipiderm**, utilizes natural, plant-derived ingredients, and hydrates while preventing water loss, and also replaces essential lipids. Terrilynn can be reached at (720) 252-8937 (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris Photographer)

## Upcoming Events (con't.)

### Tips and Leads 2

July 23 | 7:30 am

### Chamber Board of Directors Meeting

July 24 | 7:30 am

### Business After Hours

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park  
25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO 80016  
July 25 | 5-7 pm

### Banks in Harmony

Hazel Miller – Blues, Jazz, R&B  
Meadowood Park  
3054 S. Laredo St., Aurora, CO, 80012  
July 25 | 6-8:30 pm

## AUGUST

### Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

August 1 | 7:30 am

### Banks in Harmony

Phat Daddy – High Energy R&B, Rock, Contemporary Hits  
Meadowood Park  
3054 S. Laredo St., Aurora, CO, 80012  
August 1 | 6:30-8 pm

### Young Professionals

August 2 | 12 noon

### Business for the Arts Committee

August 6 | 8 am

### Tips and Leads 1

August 6 | 11:45 am

### Transportation Committee

August 7 | 7:30 am

### Healthcare Committee

August 8 | 8 am

### Tips and Leads 3

August 12 | 11:45 am

### Tips and Leads 2

August 13 | 7:30 am

### Ambassador Team Meeting

August 14 | 7:30 am

### ChamberMaster Training

August 14 | 12 noon

### Tips and leads 1

August 20 | 11:45 am

### How To Do Business with Arapahoe County

August 21 | 11:30 am-1 pm

### Business After Hours

TBD

August 22 | 5-7 pm

### Tips and Leads 3

August 26 | 11:45 am

### Tips and Leads 2

August 27 / 7:30 am

### Women in Business

August 27 | 12 pm

### Chamber Board of Directors

August 28 | 7:30 am



## Business for the Arts Committee Arts District Tour

The annual Business for the Arts Committee Arts District Tour started at the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**. From there, the group went to **DAVA**, The Collection, the **Aurora Cultural Arts District** headquarters at 1400 Dallas, and the Vintage Theater. Then, it was over to **La Cueva Restaurant** for a well-deserved and delicious lunch!

The Business for the Arts Committee of The Chamber, chaired by Ed Duggan, owner of **Music Go Round** promotes the active involvement of the business community in the cultural arts programs in the Eastern Metro area. They work to promote cultural organizations including the **Aurora Symphony**, the **Aurora Artists' Guild**, the **Aurora Singers**, the



**Aurora Fox Arts Center**, and the **Aurora Cultural Arts District**. This committee also presents the annual **Banks in Harmony concert series**, and the annual Business for the Arts award. ■

Be sure to mark your calendars for

## Destination Health 2013

*Healthcare crossroads:  
Navigating through change*

**November 1, 2013**

7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast**  
3200 S. Parker Rd. Aurora, CO 80014

*Topics for the day include:*

### The Journey

How we got here and the road forward

### Healthcare Reform

Impact on your business and on you

### Technology

Advancing the delivery of healthcare

### Wellness

Good health at work and at home

For more information about tickets and/or sponsorships, contact  
mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org



# BANKS IN HARMONY

**Concert Series Summer Thursdays 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

*For weather-related decisions on cancellations, please call the Chamber after 3 p.m. at 303-344-1500 on the day of the concert or tune in to KEZW Radio, AM 1430 for the latest updates.*

**For more information, visit [www.auroragov.org/concerts](http://www.auroragov.org/concerts) or call 303-344-1500.**

Date	Band	Style	Location	Sponsor	Food Vendor
June 20	Fouever Fab	60-70's Beatles Music	Bicentennial Park Alameda & Potomac	Aurora Cultural Svcs	L&L Hawaiian BBQ
June 27	Dean Bushnell Orchestra	Big Band Swing	AMC Great Lawn Alameda & Chambers	KEZW Radio	Woody Creek Bakery & Café
<b>July 4</b> <b>Various City Events on the AMC Great Lawn</b>					
July 11	Buckstein	Country Rock	Utah Park Peoria & Mexico	Citywide Banks	Legends of Aurora Sports Grill
July 18	Chris Daniels & the Kings	Roots Rock & Roll with Horns	Utah Park Peoria & Mexico	1 <sup>st</sup> Bank	Maid-Rite Diner
July 25	Hazel Miller	Blues, Jazz, R&B	Meadowood Park Dartmouth & Laredo	Wells Fargo Bank	A-Town Pizza
Aug 1	Phat Daddy	High Energy R&B, Rock, Contemporary Hits	Meadowood Park Dartmouth & Laredo	Aurora Sentinel	McAlister's Deli

## SPONSORED BY

**Aurora  
Sentinel**



## Food Vendors





# AFRL names 11 military award winners

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Defense Council held its 37th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on June 14, 2013 to honor the military serving in the Metro area. More than 600 attended the **Colorado Technical University**-sponsored event including business, professional and community leaders to honor 11 military members representing each of the branches of service as well as their Reserve and Guard components as well as one civilian from the community.

The keynote speaker was Craig R. McKinley, National President of the Air Force Association and former Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

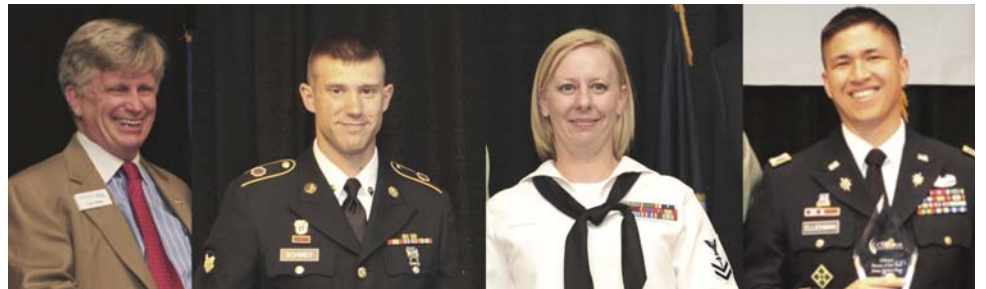
"To all of you in uniform — whether you are Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard — thank you all for your service. I am proud of the dedication of the service members here today," said McKinley as he talked about sequestration, technology improvements, the volunteer force and wounded warriors.

"America is a resilient nation," stated McKinley. We don't give up! The next generation is the greatest generation that we will recognize today."

Those receiving the awards included: For the active duty Air Force was Tech. Sgt. Ranier, Raqueno, from the Space Operations Wing with the Aerospace Data Facility — Colo.; for the Air Force Reserve was Tech. Sgt. Murjani Law with the Air Reserve Personnel Center; for the active duty Army was Sgt. Jordan Nwajei, of the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion; for the Army Reserve was Spc. Doug Schmidt, A Company, 98th Expeditionary Signal Battalion; for the Navy active duty was Petty Officer Josue Orantes, with the Navy Operations Support Center; for the Navy Reserve was Petty Officer 2nd Class Theresa Able with the Navy Operations Support Center; Marine Corps active duty was Sgt. Renata Rock, Company A, Marine Cryptologic Support Bn.; representing the Marine Corps Reserve was Sgt. Keshi Solano, 5th Bn., 14th Marine Regiment; for the Coast Guard was Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Jackson, Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Colorado; for the Colorado Army National Guard was Staff Sgt. Hans Blenkers, HHC, 147th Brigade Support Bn. and for the Colorado Air National Guard was Tech. Sgt. Shawn Thomason. Mr. Tom Allee with **Frontier**



**AFRL 2013 Award Winners** – Awardees from the 37th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon pose for one last picture after being individually recognized in a special program on June 14. Pictured from left to right are: (Front Row) Petty Officer First Class Josue Orantes, Navy Active Duty; Sgt. Keshia Solano representing Marine Reserves; Sgt. Renata Rock, Marine Active Duty; TSgt. Shawn Thomason, Colorado Air National Guard; (Back Row) SSgt. Hans Blenkers, Colorado Army National Guard; Petty Officer Second Class Patrick Jackson, Coast Guard; Craig McKinley (General, USAF, Retired), Keynote Speaker; TSgt. Ranier Raqueno, Air Force Active Duty; TSgt. Murjani Law, Air Force Reserve. (USAF Photo by AIC Darryl Bolden)



Pictured in the foreground are (from l.) Mr. Tom Allee who was awarded the Bob Cardenas Award for Outstanding Support of the Military by a Civilian; Specialist Douglas Schmidt, Army Reserve; Petty Officer Theresa Able, Navy Reserve and Sgt. Jordan Nwajei, Army Active Duty. (USAF Photos by AIC Darryl Bolden)

**Airlines** was presented the Bob Cardena's award for his support of the military in the area.

Each awardee was given a special trophy and a certificate with a flag that had flown over the nation's capitol presented by **Congressman Ed Perlmutter** from the 7th Congressional District.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing the

members of the Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard — throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said Defense Council Chair Lisa Buckley with **American Automation**. "They make a great contribution to our community and to our nation." ■

## Sloan Awards Recognize Excellence in Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility

Winners of the 2013 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Excellence in Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility are **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!**, Colorado Springs School District 11-Central Administration, Colorado Springs School District 11-McAuliffe Elementary School, Colorado Springs School District 11-Monroe Elementary School, KPMG – Denver, CO, and Ryan – Denver, CO. Presentation of the awards will be held July 25, 12-1:30



p.m. at the Westin Westminster.

Given by Families and Work Institute and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the Sloan award recognizes employers that have distinguished themselves in Colorado and across the country. Winners are identified through a rigorous selection process, which involves an evaluation of employers' flexibility programs and practices (from telecommuting to job

sharing to phased retirement programs) and a confidential employee survey.

An initiative of Families and Work Institute (FWI) and SHRM, the Sloan Awards are part of When Work Works, a national project to educate the business community on the value of workplace effectiveness and flexibility.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the SHRM are the official hosts of the awards in Colorado. ■

professionals. Led by Dwight Taylor of the **Rocky Mountain Law Group**, chairing the Business Development Committee, we have the Women in Business Committee, chaired by Debbie Gillard of **Metropolitan State University**, and our Young Professionals Committee, chaired by Briley Peters of **Visit Aurora**. These committees hold monthly educational, motivational and just plain fun/social events that address issues and provide for information sharing specifically geared for women and younger professionals.

These are just a few examples of things The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is doing that I believe are both meeting expectations of members and are currently relevant. But, are we doing enough? Are we not seeing things that need to be addressing? Do we really have a sufficient handle on what are members want and expect? These are the questions we are asking ourselves as your Board and staff — and we intend to strategically address in the coming weeks/months. This is also where we need your input.

### Chamber Responsiveness

You may be aware of and have participated in occasional online Chamber membership surveys. However, perhaps as you look at one of these surveys you don't see the question(s) you want answered! This is your chance. **If you have a burning issue or question, or you have a great suggestion that would make The Chamber relevant to you, let us know - CALL or EMAIL US!** It may be just the thing that will not only meet your expectation, but likely that of other members as well — and will ultimately make the

Chamber more relevant to all of the businesses we represent.

Before I sign off on this letter, a few quick observations - "Chairman's Prerogative:"

Thank you, to our great Chamber staff and planning committee for our Annual Awards Dinner - a huge job, well done! Special kudos to Chamber Marketing Director Naomi Colwell for the hard work in handling the logistics of the event - especially in accommodating the Board Chairman's idea for a venue change. Also, a big thanks to Chamber Member Randy Hurdle for opening the doors to his **Majestic Commerce Center** for the event. And thank you to all who attended and made it a big success!

My sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the 2012/13 Leadership Aurora Class for a fantastic year and completion of their community project at the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**; and to class president, Gigi de Gala with **Aurora Mental Health**, for her outstanding leadership. Here's to a great year and to lifelong memories and friendships!

Special thanks again this year to Chamber Board member, Suzanne Pitrusu of **Colorado Business Bank**, for all of her leadership and remarkable energy (even after recent knee surgery), in putting together another incredible Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. This is truly a "Must Attend Event" that does just what the title says - recognizes outstanding men and women in the armed forces, who do remarkable things, not only for their branch of military service, but for their community. For any who have not attended this luncheon, it is incredibly moving and patriotic — you can't help but get those "lump-in-the-throat" emotions welling up with patriotic pride in our county and for the men and women who keep our country safe.

Thank you Suzanne and your committee; we salute you for a "job well done!"

Speaking of "patriotic," we are also swelling with pride for the Memorial Day Weekend-long dedication of the **Colorado Freedom Memorial**. Congratulations to our friend, Rick Crandall who has literally dedicated his life and many years in raising awareness and funds for this very special memorial honoring Colorado's Veterans killed in action since 1876. As Rick says, this is a "very special place to welcome home our fallen heroes. This memorial is for the families of the fallen, who we did not forget, nor will we let future generations forget."

Also, a fond farewell to Colonel Dan Dant, who is leaving us as the Commanding Officer of the **460th Space Wing** at Buckley Air Force Base, and moving to the Pentagon for his next "tour of duty." We thank Colonel Dant for a job well done during the last two years and for his active and personal involvement and commitment to the Aurora community. And, we welcome Colonel Daniel Wright, who is returning to Buckley as the new Commander of the 460th Space Wing at Buckley AFB.

As we approach the first anniversary of the tragedy that befell our community a year ago on July 20, let us all take a few moments to pause, reflect, pray, and remember those victims whose lives were lost; and those victims whose lives and memories will be indelibly impacted.

Also remember that we are "Aurora Strong!"

**Jeff Thompson, Chair ■**

## MemberRenewals

A World of Tile  
Abilene Awards & Logos, Inc.  
Adams County Workforce & Business Center  
Advantage Security, Inc.  
Ames Construction  
Arc of Aurora - The  
Aurora Education Association  
Aurora Media Group  
Backflow Consulting Testing & Repair, Inc.  
Belfor Property Restoration  
Bill Murray  
Boeing  
Brock Publishing  
ClearPath Accountants, LLC  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Rapp  
Collins Engineers, Inc.  
Colorado Business Bank  
Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.  
Community College of Aurora - Foundation  
Concorde Career College  
Dennis, Russell Enterprises  
Denver South Economic Development Partner  
Drury Inn - Denver East  
eTravel Unlimited  
Firearm Accuracy Safety Training, Inc.  
Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority  
Fogg System Company, Inc.  
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.  
Garden Plaza of Aurora  
Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of Excellence  
Good to Great Engineering and Technical Services

Grand Design, Inc.  
Havana Business Improvement District  
Hertz Rent A Car  
Holiday Inn & Suites DIA  
Humana Marketpoint  
Jane McGrath  
Jordan Road CARSTAR Collision  
Kaiser Permanente  
Lockheed Martin Space Systems  
Mary Kay Cosmetics - Suzanne Waffle  
MC Commercial Real Estate  
McAlister's Deli  
Medical Center of Aurora, The - HealthONE  
Mesa Systems, Inc.  
Midwest Sales  
Miller Technology Group  
MITH Enterprises LLC  
Mr. Greenjean's Landscape Services, LLC  
NAACP-Aurora Branch  
NJT Group  
Outback Steakhouse - Denver Gateway  
Parkside Animal Health Center  
Plastics Design & Manufacturing  
Ponderosa Vision Clinic  
Project C.U.R.E.  
Publication Printers Corp.  
Roosters of Shops at Shenandoah  
Solidyn Solutions, Inc.  
Specialty Incentives  
Staybridge Suites - DIA  
Whisper Sky Luxury Apartment Homes

## NewMembers

2nd & Charles  
Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership  
Busch for Ward I  
Coldwell Banker - Jacalyn Right  
Conceal Fab  
Cruise Planners - Live 2 Travel  
Denver Limo and Town Car  
DKB Marketing Solutions LLC  
Edward Jones Investments - Art Wolfe  
Escape to Serenity Massage  
G & L Garage Doors  
Grease Monkey  
Guardian Urgent Care  
Hurricane Wings  
Insula Design Studio, PC  
Java Cup  
JH Basement Finish  
Jos. A. Bank, Inc.  
Keystone Technology Design  
Larimer Capital Corporation  
Madison Hill HOA  
Maestro Imaging and Design Inc.  
Manchester Place HOA  
Mary Kay Cosmetics - Suzanne Waffle  
Masala Xpress  
MersaTech  
New Life Counseling  
Rocky Mountain Credit Card Processing, LLC  
Scott Underwood Agency, LLC  
Sears Home Appliance & Mattress Showroom  
Secret Garden Bath & Boutique, LLC  
Tenaker Pet Care Center, Inc.  
Total Merchant Services  
True Life Companies, The  
Younique Counseling-Aurora North

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