

# EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Dr. Beverlee McClure — Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI)

Dr. McClure is the President and CEO of the ACI. The Association of Commerce & Industry of New Mexico is the statewide, legislative advocate of business interests. Basically serving as New Mexico's state chamber of commerce. Their mission is to enrich the lives and prosperity of New Mexicans through a vibrant business climate, built by effective advocacy and education. Dr. McClure's presentation focused on the Association's perspective on how the state's economy is progressing, and recent trends in different sectors. New Mexico's economic recovery has been slow and certainly, to this point, not complete. The northern portion of the state is currently doing poorly while the southern part of the state is booming; primarily as a result of prosperity in the oil and gas industry. In some southern cities it will cost you more to stay at a Day's Inn for 3 days than it would for you to rent a 2 bedroom apartment in Albuquerque for a month (although you would probably have to wash your own sheets and have Merry Maids clean the apartment; whereas the Day's Inn takes care of that for you - still not close since Merry Maids is not very expensive). In recent months New Mexico's job categories have had some increases in workers, while others continue to see decreases. Health sector is up by about 5,000 workers; manufacturing is down. Mining is up. Finance industry is slightly up, as are transportation, leisure & hospitality and retail. Construction is down. Wholesale industry is down. Government is also down (not necessarily a bad thing). Dr. McClure also noted some of the items being worked on by ACI's regulatory advocates. Workers Comp program changes so that there is some consideration / reduction of benefits for claims where drugs or alcohol were contributing factors. Modification of the 'Wage Fraud' regulation to set maximum reach-back periods and allow for reduction or elimination of fines in situations that arise simply because of bookkeeping or management errors. Minimum wage levels set to a 'reasonable' rate and emphasize that the discussions should always be within the confines of the basic intention of the minimum wage program. Procurement reform so that there is more of an emphasis on purchasing from qualified New Mexico businesses vs. out of state entities. Right to work will be brought up again this legislative session, but when asked her opinion of its success this round, Dr. McClure relates her feelings to those she has for the Dallas Cowboys . She roots for success, though down inside she realizes that it is not likely to happen. I understand her sentiments, but at least Right to Work has a more promising outlook for five to six years from now. If you would like to support ACI and its mission, buy from New Mexico companies whenever possible; know your political candidates and vote for those that will best represent New Mexico business interests; and Contact Dr. McClure, or one of the ACI staff, at 505.842.0644 or info@aci-nm.org

♦ Friday (September 12th) 5:00 PM is the deadline !!!

Mario needs advance notice of guests that will be in attendance at the September 16th meeting. Friday at 5:00pm is the deadline so that there is time to plan for food and seating. Please provide Mario with a head count of how many people you will be bringing. We want this meeting, in particular, to be a positive reflection on our organization, so lets help Mario make sure plans are all in order. His contact information is in the box below.

- ♦ The September 23rd meeting will be a mandatory meeting so that we can vote on ratification of the By-Laws. There must be at least two thirds of the active membership in attendance for the vote to be valid. Please plan accordingly so that you will be there. If you have questions about the By-Laws, or would like a copy, contact Mario or one of the Board members.

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez

Phone: 505-239-0259

email: hernmar129@yahoo.com

Postal mail: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #345; Albuquerque, NM 87113

### Business Leads:

O'Reilly Auto Parts is opening a store in Edgewood.

- Lionel Specter - Zeon Signs

### Reciprocity:

Thank you to:

Mike Deveraux - Document Solutions for shredding documents.

Phil Kenny - Trucks Unique for some running boards.

Raul Rodriquez - Kings of Wrap for truck signage.

Karl Kirsch - O'Malley Glass for free consultation that saved me a fortune.

- Mike Berezniak - Albuquerque Pipe & Pump Supply

There were other mentions of appreciation, but none were written down.

- ◆ Our EAGA Trap Shoot will be Friday, October 17th at the Albuquerque Trap Club. The committee is making great plans. This is one of our budgeted events and the recent shotgun auction contributed extra funds for participation gifts, prizes, and treats. Past events indicate that it will be great fun and, at least so far, no one has shot anything other than a clay. Ammunition is provided. If you need a shotgun, some of our members have extras and will have loaners available. If you would like shooting advice, we have members that can provide that (no need to ask Dan, you can talk to Troy, Damian, Jack, Klint or one of many other qualified members). The event is only a month away, so put it on your calendar. Plan on spending some time enjoying the camaraderie of fellow EAGA members while shooting at flying objects. Sign up sheets will be available next Tuesday. Directions to the facility and more details about the event will also be provided during the next couple of weeks.
- ◆ Your speaking and/or greeter slot is noted below. Let Mario know which of the available dates you choose.

## Badge Board Greeters

Sept 16th Bruce Hoover - Business Environments

Sept 23rd Bill McCabe - Bowlin Travel Centers

Sept 30th

Oct 7th

Oct 14th

## Upcoming Speakers

Sept 16th Bring A Potential Member Day

Sept 23rd Kevin Lorenzen — Aflac

Sept 30th James Jaramillo — Coba Investments

Oct 7th

Oct 14th

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