



September Luncheon

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

What's Next for Arkansas? A Conversation on Economic Development

11:15 - 11:45 Registration and Networking

11:45 Lunch and Program

Location: Topgolf Little Rock

[Register online](#)

Thanks to our Premier Partner, Destination Rogers

Join us for a timely conversation about economic development in Arkansas - what's working, what's changing and what business and association leaders should be watching. We'll discuss Issue 3 and what it could mean for economic development efforts across the state, along with the broader opportunities and challenges shaping Arkansas's growth.

Emcee for Panel:

Randy Zook, Arkansas State Chamber

Panelists:

Justin Allen - Wright, Lindsey, Jennings

Senator Jim Petty

John Wilkerson, Arkansas Municipal League



Tacos and Topics - October 20th

Save the Date! Everyone's favorite roundtable luncheon is back on Tuesday, October 20th and registration will be online soon!

Tuesday, October 21st

Wyndham Grand Executive Center Little Rock

(formerly Hilton Conference Center)

11:00 - 12:30 - Roundtable Topic Discussions

12:30 - 1:15 - Tacos and Networking



New ASAE Directories are here and you look great in print!

Pick up on September 15th or [schedule to have yours delivered!](#)



Emerging Leaders Council Update

At our August Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) meeting, the class learned membership tips from J.D. Harper and got a sneak peek at the 2026 Benchmarking Survey from Naylor. The report gives a detailed look at what's working, what's not and what's coming next for the association community.

[You can find a copy of the report here. It's full of great information!](#)

Thanks to **Hotel Avail Rogers** and **Motto by Hilton Bentonville** for making ELC possible.

Interested in ELC? Nominations for the 2027 Emerging Leaders Council are open. Execs: Please consider joining or nominating someone for the [2027 ELC Class.](#)

Strengthening the CEO/Chair Partnership



We're sharing an article by Lowell Aplebaum, a frequent speaker at ASAE national meetings, that brings up an important leadership conversation. In [Built by Design: Strengthening the CEO/Chair Partnership](#), Lowell explores what makes the CEO/chair relationship work - and why the strongest partnerships are intentional, not left to chance.

With volunteer leadership changing regularly, building trust, communicating effectively, and continually recalibrating the partnership are essential. The article offers eight practical questions leaders and boards can use to strengthen that relationship and support better decisions, innovation, and long-term success.

[OPEN HOUSE](#)

[WALTON COLLEGE AT 2nd & MAIN LITTLE ROCK](#)

Tuesday, September 29th from 9:00 - 10:00 AM
RSVP

Do you have member updates or job openings to share? Send them to office@arksae.net

2027 RFP for Monthly Meetings

The RFP for our 2027 monthly meetings will be emailed next week to members located in/around Little Rock and [can be found here](#). **Please submit your bid by October 9th. Any member of ASAE can bid to host a monthly event in/near Little Rock.** Below are the dates for our 2027 meetings:



Tuesday, January 18th
Tuesday, February 17th
Tuesday, March 16th
Tuesday, April 20th
Tuesday, June 21st
Tuesday, August 17th
Tuesday, September 14th
Tuesday, October 19th - Tacos and Topics
Tuesday, November 16th

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Trade Show: Tuesday, May 17th
Convention: Monday, July 12th and Tuesday, July 13th at Oaklawn Resort Hot Springs
Holiday Party: December 21st



Celebrating Our 2026 Award Winners

At the Annual Convention Banquet in Rogers, we honored outstanding members with ASAE awards. Congratulations to all our recipients, including **Bo Ryall** (Ken Graves Memorial Award), **Shay Stout** (Emerging Leader), **Stacey Ellis** (Partner of the Year), and the following organizations recognized for Excellence in Communications: **Arkansas Bar Association** for *Arkansas*

Lawyer, **American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas** for Building Arkansas, **Arkansas Center for Health Management Inc** for Healthy Birthing Journey Podcast, **Big I Arkansas** for *Big I Arkansas Roadshow*, **EAST** for *2026 East Conference* and **Goodwill Industries** for *Mission Magazine*.

Click [here](#) for more info and photos from convention!

ASAE 2026 Membership Directory



The new **ASAE Membership Directory** is here! A big thank you to **Bennett Davis Group/Sir Speedy** for getting this year's directory printed and into our hands. Pick up your copy at the **September 15 meeting**, or let us bring one to you! Our **Premiere Partners** will help deliver directories to members. [Just email us if you'd like one dropped off.](#)

You can also find the directory online in the [members only section!](#)

2026 Premiere Partners

Destination Rogers

Explore Fort Smith

Fort Smith Convention Center

Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau

Visit Hot Springs

Contact Info:

Arkansas Society of Association Executives

PO Box 23034

Little Rock, AR 72221

501-223-9188

office@arksae.net