

# CAPITOL REPORT

News & Updates from Your State Capitol  
By Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin

## Legislative Bills Focus on Voter I.D., Absentee Ballots

During a legislative session, the Secretary of State's staff regularly tracks bills that would affect the office as a whole, as well as specific divisions. Several such bills have made their way through the General Assembly this session.

A number of bills have focused on the way our state and counties conduct elections. Members of the Secretary of State's office have testified at numerous committee meetings regarding the impact proposed bills would have on our office. Among those proposals was Senate Bill 2, a measure to require voters to present photo identification prior to voting. It passed in both the House and Senate, but received a veto from the Governor. Both chambers voted to override the veto, and the bill is now Act 595.

Another piece of legislation to note is House Bill 1283, now known as Act 466, which allows a signed, dated, postmarked and mailed absentee ballot to be counted if the voter dies before Election Day. Currently, if a person casts an absentee ballot but dies before the polls open on Election Day, the vote would not be counted. By contrast, current law allows all ballots cast at early voting sites to be counted, including those cast by a voter who dies before Election Day. Secretary Martin supports this important change to give deceased military voters the same rights as early voters.

In addition to the bills that address our office directly, the legislative process for all bills officially ends in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State. After the legislature passes a bill and the governor signs it into law, the official document travels to the Elections Library where it is numbered and stored. The acts from this session will be hardbound into a book and filed alongside act books from previous sessions.

A full list of House and Senate Bills as well as Acts may be viewed on the General Assembly's website by visiting [www.arkleg.state.ar](http://www.arkleg.state.ar). Available information includes the text of a bill, its amendments, sponsors, co-sponsors and vote tally.

### Voting System Grants

The Secretary of State's office administers grants for certain election-related projects in counties. Counties are currently busy applying for County Voting System Grants. Counties approved for these grants will receive funding for voting machines, electronic voting tabulation devices and voting components, equipment, and programs.

Counties will be notified by May 30 if they are receiving a grant and funds will be issued by June 30.



Secretary Martin enters the Senate floor to certify results of the General Election.



### The Secretary's Minute

*It's always an honor to have the opportunity to greet Arkansans and share what we're doing throughout the Secretary of State's office. This year has already been momentous as the legislature has debated and voted on historic laws. From carrying guns in church and on college campuses to potentially requiring voters to show photo identification, you've no doubt seen many of these issues in the news.*

*But daily business continues around the Capitol, too. Changes include a remodeled Land Commissioner's office and redesigned rose beds at the Markham Street entrance. Later this year, the grounds will see a significant change when the new Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial is constructed. I am proud to be chairman of the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission that approved installation of the memorial.*

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*I was also pleased to be part of our first Veterans Service Organizations and Legislators Day at the Capitol in March. My office hosted this event to help veterans groups and legislators meet and network.*

*Visitors of all ages enjoy our quarterly historic exhibits. This year we have some especially interesting features, ranging from Arkansas Post to Arkansas roadways, which I'm particularly looking forward to.*

*The business community should be aware of the upcoming deadline to file annual reports and pay franchise taxes by May 1. Remember, non-profit organizations do not pay franchise taxes, although they must file an annual report by August 1.*

*Finally, on a personal note, I want to publicly thank and recognize Jonathan Runnells for his years of service to both this office, and all of Arkansas. J.R. retired in March after serving 28 years under four Secretaries of State, most of those as the Capitol Events Coordinator. During those years, he helped many thousands of people schedule their events at the Capitol — from rallies to wedding photos — making sure the facility was prepared for them. If you attended anything at the Capitol during that time, he was there, too, working behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. J.R., thank you on behalf of everyone you served. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!*

*I wish each of you a great year, and remember, you can always stay updated on activities around the office by checking out our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Search for ARSecofState.*

*Mark Martin*  
Arkansas Secretary of State

## Long-Awaited Firefighters Memorial Approved

The Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission recently approved installation of a memorial to fallen firefighters.

The Arkansas Fallen Firefighters have pursued the project for eight years and have raised funds for construction and maintenance of the monument.

Secretary Martin, who serves as chairman of the commission, said he was pleased with the project. "It's appropriate that the firefighters who have given their lives in service will be honored on the Capitol grounds," he said.

The installation will include a statue grouping of firefighters, a series of granite panels and a fountain, set in an amphitheater. It will be located on the west side of the Capitol, at the end of Capitol Mall. The memorial was designed by artist Paula Haskins, sculptor Robert Daus and architect Jackson Brown King. The goal is to complete construction in time for dedication in October, which is National Fire Prevention Month.

In January, Secretary of State Mark Martin appointed two new commissioners to fill vacancies on the 10-member Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission. John Lane is owner of Lane and Associates Architects of Fort Smith, and Dave Roberts is Vice President of Planning for Crafton Tull in Little Rock.

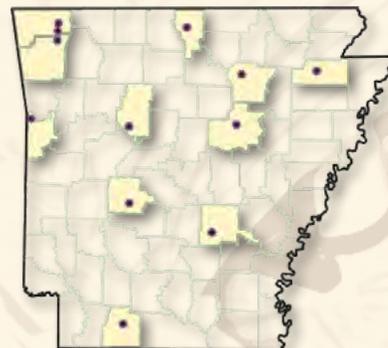


## Free Seminars Slated for Notaries Public

Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin is proud to continue offering informational sessions to the state's notaries public. The seminars, which are free to the public, are now scheduled for 2013. Most sites (listed at right) offer both morning and afternoon sessions.

The 90-minute seminars are geared toward both prospective and current notaries public in Arkansas.

The Secretary of State encourages notaries to attend to gain important information about the ever-changing Arkansas notary public laws and regulations.



Online pre-registration is required; simply visit [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs). For more information, e-mail [danielle.fusco@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:danielle.fusco@sos.arkansas.gov), or call (501) 682-5286 or toll free at (888)233-0325.

### 2013 Notary Seminars

- April 18 – Searcy
- May 6 – Springdale
- May 7 – Rogers
- May 21 – Mountain Home
- June 6 – Jonesboro
- June 10 – Springdale
- June 11 – Lowell
- June 18 – Pine Bluff
- July 11 – Russellville
- August 15 – Fort Smith
- August 20 – Hot Springs
- September 4 – Magnolia

# Minute In History: Bazookas, BBs and Much More

Did you know that mercury was once mined in Arkansas? Have you ever heard of Dorothy Shaver or Ferdinand Frederick Zellner? How about the origin of the word “bazooka”? And did you know Daisy BB guns started as a marketing gimmick for a windmill company?

If not, you’re missing out — on *This Week in Arkansas History*, a special weekly broadcast from the Secretary of State’s office. Secretary Martin narrates the minute-long stories with topics ranging from the first radio broadcast in Arkansas, to the first female U.S. senator.

“I’ve learned so many fun facts about Arkansas history through the program, and I think listeners will, too,” Martin said.

The series opened with stories of the Capitol’s construction. A recurring feature profiles Arkansas’s 25 Medal of Honor recipients and their heroic acts. Many of the stories are inspired by the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, which is a project of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the Central Arkansas Library System.

“Sometimes it’s humorous, and sometimes it’s touching,” Martin said. “But every week we try to make Arkansas history come alive.”

The one-minute segments go to over 50 radio stations statewide each week. Video versions are posted on the Secretary of State’s YouTube channel (ArkansasSOS), which

is accessible through the social media links on our home page, [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).



## Veterans Services Day at the Capitol

As a Navy veteran, Secretary Martin is dedicated to reaching out to military personnel and veterans, encouraging them to vote and become involved in issues that effect them. As part of that ongoing effort, the Secretary of State’s office hosted Veterans Service Organizations/ Legislators Day at the Capitol on March 14.

“We invited a number of veterans service organizations to set up in the Capitol Rotunda and meet with legislators,” Martin said. “The event had a two-fold purpose: to get the organizations in touch with their lawmakers, and to help legislators know who they can contact about veterans issues.”

Martin said he hopes the VSO/Legislators Day will be a recurring event. “We had a great start this year with good interaction,” he said. “I hope we see more veterans filling the Capitol each year.”



## Secretary Martin Names New Directors



Rob Hammons has been named as the new director of the Elections division. Hammons served for 11 years as an election coordinator before being promoted to assistant director in 2011. He succeeds Martha Adcock, who now serves as general counsel for the Secretary of State’s office.



Kerry Baldwin has been named director of Strategic Communications within the Communications and Education division. She previously served as an Elections coordinator, interim director of Business and Commercial Services and assistant director of Elections.

# Exhibits Feature State's First Capital, Brinkley Academy

Several exhibits are opening a window to Arkansas's past this year.

The Capitol's spring exhibit explores Arkansas's first settlement and capital. It commemorates both the major Civil War battle 150 years ago and the place that gave the battle its name. "This is a fascinating chance to learn about Arkansas Post," Martin said. "The *First Post* exhibit includes artifacts from nearly five decades of archeology."

Arkansas Post was established in 1686 as the first European settlement in what became first the province, then the territory of Louisiana. It was relocated several times over the years. During its history, Arkansas Post has served as the capital of the then-new "Arkansaw" Territory, a cotton-shipping point and a Civil War fortification.

In the 1930s, a state park was established, and in 1960, the Arkansas Post National Memorial was created to commemorate European exploration and settlement of the lower Mississippi valley.

*First Post* includes a comprehensive collection of artifacts from archaeological digs, ranging from pottery shards to clay pipes, stone scraper blades to artillery projectiles. The exhibit will remain in the Capitol's first floor exhibit cases through mid-May.

## Brinkley Academy

During February, the Capitol observed Black History Month with a special exhibit about the Consolidated White



River Academy, commonly called the "Brinkley Academy."

In 1893, a consortium of Missionary Baptist congregations in eastern Arkansas pooled their resources to establish a residential secondary school for African-American youths.

The Consolidated White River Academy was one of three African-American boarding schools located within a few miles of each other. These schools, established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, would each close within a few months of one another in 1949-50, their mission increasingly shouldered by segregated public high schools.

The displays created for the Capitol presentation will later become a traveling exhibit to be presented at Park Central Little Rock near Central High.

After Memorial Day, the Capitol's summer exhibit will celebrate the first century of state roads in Arkansas as the Arkansas Highway Commission celebrates its centennial. Old bridges will be a feature of particular interest.

"This exhibit will allow visitors a chance to see and appreciate just how far we have come on roads in Arkansas," Martin said.

The summer exhibit will be on display in the Capitol's first floor galleries from June through August.

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## Holiday Ornament Sales Benefit Children's Hospital

Secretary Martin extends sincere thanks to everyone who purchased the 2012 Capitol Christmas ornament. The Secretary of State's Office donated a portion of the proceeds to Arkansas Children's Hospital in honor of the hospital's 100th birthday last year. Secretary Martin (*above, left*) and Capitol Gift Shop Manager Leighanne Harvey (*above, right*) presented a check for \$189 to Kim DuPas, representing the ACH Foundation.

The 2012 Capitol Christmas Ornament was an enameled rendition of the Great Seal of Arkansas, inspired by the stained-glass artwork in the Capitol's first-floor rotunda. Previous years' ornaments have featured the Capitol's architecture, the Rotunda Christmas tree, bronze doors and Rotunda chandelier. Each of the series' 10 collectible ornaments is available in the gift shop or online at [www.ark.org/sos-ornamentsale/index.php](http://www.ark.org/sos-ornamentsale/index.php).



# Capitol Facilities Readies Landscape for Spring

As the wintry temperatures finally begin to rise, the Capitol Facilities staff are at work to ensure a colorful spring at the State Capitol.

One of the most notable projects is a completely redesigned rose bed at the northern boundary along Third Street. Hardscaping such as curbing, paths and irrigation are all new, preparing the way for about 350 new long-stem rose bushes with more than a dozen varieties.

Other landscaping projects include new walkways and updates to a shade garden on the south lawn and redesigned foundation beds. Plantings around the monuments have been replaced with hawthorn bushes, along with new daffodil and hyacinth bulbs that will produce perennial color. Zinnias being planted along the front promenade will bring profuse blooms throughout the summer.

## Interior Updates

Inside the Capitol itself, energy-efficient upgrades have already yielded big savings. Entergy Arkansas issued a \$16,000 rebate in November for the changes that will save 176,228 kilowatt hours each year.

A year-long project to upgrade the electrical system has come to a close. The new system improves electrical distribution throughout the building. It is safer and easier to maintain and can be expanded to replace older electrical panels as needed. Also on the list of upgrades is a new cable raceway system that will make it easier for the Information Technology team to replace data lines.

The Secretary of State's staff helped support a major renovation of the main offices for the Commissioner of State Lands. Contractors performed construction in the first-floor suite; the Capitol Facilities team assisted with lighting installation and provided oversight to ensure historic integrity. On your next visit to the Capitol, be sure to stop by the Land Commissioner's suite to see new exhibits and research facilities, as well as the beautifully restored original hardwood floors.

Finding your way around the Capitol will get a little easier this spring. A new digital display system is in the works for the first floor Visitor Center. The new touchscreen features an easy-to-navigate map and events schedule. Upgrades to two existing screens in the first-floor rotunda will make it faster and easier to change content, which will help keep information fresh and relevant. Watch for it to debut later this spring.



# Hands-On Education Programs Bring Learning to Life

The Secretary of State's Education Team conducts a variety of interactive programs to help students of all ages learn more about their state and realize their role in making it great.

As primary schools begin their studies of Arkansas, demand peaks for the State Symbols of Arkansas program. The traveling presentation lets students see, hear and touch real-life examples of the state's official emblems. Children learn that we're the only state with diamonds (our state gem), see a Dutch oven (the state historic cooking vessel), and hear the swinging rhythm of a square dance (the state folk dance) on a fiddle (our state instrument). Earlier this year, every kindergarten classroom in Conway Public Schools saw the presentation.

## Turning Students Into Voters

For older students, the semi-annual Young Voters workshop brings high

school students to the Capitol to learn about our form of government, re-enact historic events in voting rights history and debate current events.

"Voting is a critical part of our American system of government," Secretary Martin said. "This workshop is designed to give students a deeper appreciation of that process and its historic cost."

The spring program, held March 12-14, had more than 500 participants from 50 schools and home-school organizations.

"This summer we'll be retooling the workshop," Martin said. "The current program is almost 10 years old, so we're ready to give it a fresh feel with new activities for the next session this fall."

## Something for Teachers, Too

Educators can find new tools for Arkansas history through the Secretary of State's summer workshops, *Using the State Capitol to Teach*. They can earn credit hours of Arkansas history education and take away practical resources for their own classrooms. Teachers learn about general and specialized tours of the Capitol that are available, as well as fun historic facts and interactive games.

Workshops are slated around the state including the State Capitol session on July 11.

For more information about our state symbol presentations, the Young Voters Workshop or summer workshops, educators can contact the Secretary of State Education team at (501) 682-5279 or visit [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).



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**Annual Franchise Tax**  
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***Deadline: May 1, 2013***

Prepare and update your 2013 franchise tax report online:

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**NOTE:** Revoked entities continue to accrue franchise taxes annually until the business is formally dissolved/withdrawn.

Nonprofit corporations are not subject to state franchise tax.

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*\*Contact Business and Commercial Services Division for forms to file by mail.*