



arkansasinc.

Spring 2016

Non Profit Spotlight *Veteran Villages of America, Inc.*

Veterans Villages of America, Inc. ("V2A") is an Arkansas 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt corporation whose mission is "To combine many of the distinctly diverse programs and policies servicing our veterans into a unifying effort, which will improve the economic well-being and quality of life for our veterans."

Instead of replicating programs conducted by a number of outstanding organizations throughout the state, V2A focuses on creating strategic partnerships with these groups to create a "Unity of Effort" to accomplish its mission of improving the lives of veterans, their families, and the communities they live in.

In one such partnership, V2A has joined with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for Veterans. In cooperation with Wells-Fargo, Home Depot, and several other organizations, V2A is near completion of the restoration of a home that will be used by a deserving veteran and their family.

Because V2A has demonstrated it is an organization that "gets things done for Veterans", they receive donations ranging from land, vehicles, and materials, all of which are needed for the myriad renovations they provide.

The list of things V2A has already done for Veterans is long: building ramps for injured Veterans, remodeling a WWII veteran's house, helping with repairs to a Local VFW Post, donating a car to a deserving veteran student at UALR, and coordinating the provisions of food and shelter for hungry and homeless veterans.

V2A's Chairman, Col. Mike Ross (US Army Retired) said "V2A's 'Unity of Effort' focus is paying huge dividends for Arkansas veterans through combining and leveraging the many great programs in the state, minimizing duplication of efforts, and establishing teams of individuals and organizations with one goal in mind—to help the Veteran at their time of need and beyond. Our V2A team believes what we are doing can be replicated throughout the United States to help veterans on a national scale, and that is our intent."

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The Secretary's Minute

Small Business Technology Development Centers are Key Bridge to Entrepreneurs

Mark Martin

ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

It's my goal to strengthen the relationship that we have with our businesses across the state. Too often, government has stood in the way of business. I believe it is government's job to help businesses comply with what they need to, and then get out of the way.

I recently visited the Arkansas Small Business & Technology Development Center (ASBTDC) at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. The Director, Nathan George, and I had a great discussion about how our office can partner with centers like theirs to promote entrepreneurship and make the path to business ownership easier. We already have plans to join with these centers in conducting notary training seminars.

In other news, the Arkansas franchise tax deadline (May 2nd) is fast approaching. You might be wondering, is this just for businesses that are franchises like McDonald's? The answer is no. Basically, it's a "doing business in Arkansas fee". All companies are required to pay franchise taxes, so we want to make sure that we keep you informed and we have worked to streamline the process. The filing process can all be done online, so you don't have to fill out a bunch of forms and worry about mailing them. However, if you prefer to do it on paper, we still take that too.

If you have an existing business or are just getting started, we can help if you have questions. Our office is here to serve our customers.



Arkansas Business To Watch: *IRON YARD*

If computer science education and Arkansas aren't synonymous to you yet, they soon will be. Arkansas is leading the way nationally when it comes to computer science education in public schools by the work of an initiative by Governor Asa Hutchinson during his first year in office. However, computer science education is also attainable by adults in Arkansas thanks to The Iron Yard, a coding school and start-up accelerator located in Little Rock.

The Iron Yard is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing code schools offering courses in a full-time, immersive 12-week format, called a cohort, designed to prepare students to enter the workforce as junior-level programmers. The Iron

Yard, which has twenty-one domestic campuses, and one international campus in London, opened its doors in Little Rock in the summer of 2015.



Since then, the school has graduated two cohorts with another cohort of Front-End and Back-End Engineering students currently underway. The students come from all walks of life, educational backgrounds and different

levels of coding abilities. But, why was Little Rock selected as a campus location? According to campus director Mary Dunlap, "Whenever The Iron Yard looks to open a new campus...first and foremost, we look at a city's unmet demand for tech talent. This includes evaluating the number of job listings posted for developers to ensure that there is a steady demand for developers at all levels." To date, the vast majority of The Iron Yard Little Rock's graduates have landed technology jobs in Arkansas.

For more information about The Iron Yard Little Rock, visit their website at www.theironyard.com or stop by their campus at 500 President Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201.

All About Apostilles

If Arkansas citizens are interested in international business, they may require apostille and certification services provided by the Arkansas Secretary of State's office. On October 15, 1981, the United States joined the 1961 Hague Convention. The convention abolished the requirements for the legalization of foreign public documents and simplified the authentication process of documents to be used in member nations.

An apostille is a certificate that authenticates the origin of a public document, such as a birth, marriage or death certificate, a judgment or an extract of a register or a notarial attestation.

An apostille is required if the following apply:

- The country where the document was issued is party to the Apostille Convention; and
- The country in which the document is to be used is party to the Apostille Convention; and
- The law of the country where the document was issued considers it to be a public document; and
- The country in which the document is to be used requires an apostille in order to recognize it as a foreign public document.

A list of countries who have joined the Apostille Convention is located at www.hcch.net.

For those countries who have not joined the Apostille Convention, a certification is used in place of an apostille. You should always contact the embassy or the consulate of the country where you intend to use the document in order to find out what is required in the document legalization process.

Note: It is the responsibility of the requesting party to

determine which type of authenticating document is required by the country where the document will be sent.

The Secretary of State's office is the competent authority for the State of Arkansas and is the only place that may issue apostilles and certifications. The office authenticates the signatures of the officials who have notarized or certified the documents.

Checklist for Obtaining an Apostille or Certification:

This process requires strict adherence to specific document standards. The Secretary of State will not authenticate documents that do not comply with the following standards. Please take time to read all instructions carefully. If your documents do not meet the standards, they will not be authenticated until corrected.

1. Have all documents properly notarized by an Arkansas notary public.
 - a. Ensure that they contain an acknowledgement statement for every signature on each document.
 - b. Ensure all documents in a foreign language have been translated to English and contain a proper affidavit from the translator and notarial acknowledgement from an Arkansas notary public.

2. Submit documents to be apostilled or certified and the proper fees to the

Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, Victory Building, Suite 250, 1401 W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201.

- Apostilles: \$10 per document
- Certifications: \$5 per document

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To learn more about this organization, to volunteer, or to make donations, visit www.veteransvillagesofamerica.org.

To volunteer your time or donate items please contact:

Mark Diggs (501-442-1237; mark@veteransvillagesofamerica.org) or go to www.veteransvillagesofamerica.org/ or send checks to:



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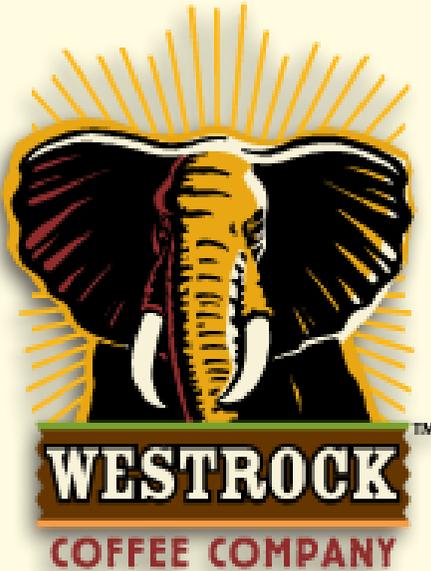
Arkansas Business Icons: *Westrock Coffee Company*

Is it possible for a corporation to do well by doing good, to make a profit through enterprise engineered to alleviate poverty? Arkansas-based Westrock Coffee Company is doing just that.

With its roasting and packing facility in North Little Rock, origin and export operations in Rwanda and Tanzania, and trading desks in Europe, the Westrock Coffee Company is truly an international business. Yet the focus has always been on its people. "Our company is based on the foundational belief that the free market system of open, competitive trade is the only system that offers sustainable economic hope - along with personal dignity - to those most deeply mired in poverty," states co-founder Scott Ford.

In 2005, Ford traveled to Rwanda to visit the Sunrise School, where he had been helping children orphaned by the 1994 genocide. As the CEO of Alltel, Ford ended up having dinner with Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Upon realizing their shared beliefs in spiritual, political and economic freedoms, Kagame named Ford to his Presidential Advisory Council, which advises Kagame on economic policies to attract foreign capital. Rwanda has very little industry, but it has the ideal soil, elevation and climate for growing coffee beans. Helping stimulate the coffee market there would improve the lives of the country's 500,000 coffee farmers, as well as the national economy as a whole. With Ford's seed money and a staff of former Alltel executives, Westrock Coffee Company began business in the summer of 2009. Now, the Westrock Coffee Company includes Westrock Coffee Roasting in Little Rock, Westrock Coffee Services (a corporate and hospitality solutions provider), Falcon Coffees Limited (a UK-based green coffee trading firm), the Rwanda Trading Company export operation, and a recent expansion to Tanzania with the Tenbo Coffee Company exporting operation.

In 2015, Westrock Coffee Company had a direct impact on over 80,000 smallholder coffee farmers across Rwanda and Tanzania. They also provide loans in excess of \$16,000,000 to over 120 farmer groups annually. Plus, the company serves one free hot meal a day to the entire workforce in East Africa. They all receive overtime pay, a checking account, health benefits and the safety equipment they need to do their jobs. Most have never received any of these benefits at previous jobs. In 2010, the company gave everyone a raise so they earn 25% above the country's



standard wage for coffee processing — not enough to disrupt the labor market, but enough to help the workers live more comfortably.

They are also doing great work in Little Rock. The company hires students from nearby Arkansas Baptist College, a four-year, Christian, historically black college, to work as summer interns. Westrock also welcomes schoolchildren and community groups to tour the facility, learn about the coffee roasting process and attend cupping demonstrations in a coffee lab built specially for this purpose. In addition, they share profits with organizations in both locations: the Sunrise School in Rwanda and Arkansas Baptist College.

From its business philosophy to its coffee products, Westrock serves up a unique blend for its customers. Every customer benefits from Westrock's story, as well as the team's exceptional understanding of business and ethics. But to see the greatest benefit, all you have to do is look to the coffee-growing hills of Rwanda, where families everywhere are enjoying a higher quality of life.



Note: This article is part of an ongoing series featuring iconic Arkansas businesses and business leaders.



SECRETARY OF STATE
MARK MARTIN

Division of Business and Commercial Services
Victory Building, Suite 250
1401 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



Use a mobile QR app to scan this code and order certificates of good standing or search entities *on the go!*

2016 Annual Franchise Tax

Deadline: May 2, 2016

*Due to May 1st falling on a weekend, the deadline for franchise taxes will move to 11:59pm, Monday May 2nd.

Prepare and update your 2016 franchise tax report online at
www.ark.org/sos/franchise/index.php

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.

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

Arkansas Secretary of State
Business and Commercial Services Division
Phone: 501.682.3409 • Toll Free: 888.233.0325
Web: www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS



Mark Martin
Secretary of State

Notary News

Exam

As of January 1, 2016, an exam is now required for all new and renewing notary public applicants. The exam is 25 questions in a multiple choice format. A minimum score of 80% must be achieved in order to pass the exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, the notary public application will become accessible. All the answers to the exam questions can be found in the latest edition of the Arkansas Notary 7 eNotary Handbook. Handbooks are available online and at your local County Circuit Clerk's office. The exam and application is part of the Secretary of State's improved notary public management system found at <http://bcs.sos.arkansas.gov>. For more information on using the new notary application management system, click the "How To Use the System" link on the website's main page.

Training

Due to popular request, the Secretary of State's Office has launched **FREE** online notary public training.

The training is for notaries of all levels and will assist applicants in successfully completing the required notary public exam. The training is accessible 24/7 and covers topics such as applying to become a notary, renewing a current commission, changes to personal information, notary public laws, rules and procedures. The training can be accessed by visiting the Secretary of State's Notary Public site at www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS/Pages/notaryPublic.aspx.

