



# arkansasinc.

Summer 2013

## New format for SOS forms

The Secretary of State's office has begun to post new forms to the web page. The new format — "fillable PDF documents" — allows for on-screen typing and printing of the forms. These new forms are in a "portable document format" normally associated with Adobe. By allowing our customers to type and print the information, paper forms should be easier to read. Hopefully, this will lead to fewer mistakes and a better experience for our customers.

It seems like a simple change; but it isn't. The new forms will become available, one by one, as the office is able to program the forms. Given the number of forms in use, and the normal usage of the forms, this process will take some time to complete.

Our "on-line" systems will one day incorporate the new PDF forms. However, the programming to incorporate these changes will also take some time. We'll keep you posted, so look for updates. Of course, the office is always happy to receive your feedback, as well.

## Nonprofit Annual Reports due on August 1

All nonprofit corporations registered in Arkansas must submit an annual report to the Secretary of State's office by Aug. 1 each year.

The report is a one-page form that includes information such as registered agent, principal office address, principal officers, board of directors and federal tax exemption status. There is no fee associated with the deadline, but the report helps us keep accurate records of the thousands of organizations working as non-profits in Arkansas.

A new version of the annual report form is available for download at: [bit.ly/ARNonprofitReport](http://bit.ly/ARNonprofitReport). The "fillable PDF" form for paper filers makes it easy to type and print and mail. It's part of our efforts to improve our customer service with PDF format forms across all business areas.

## The Secretary's Minute

### Revoked entities get new life with fine-free filing program

*Mark Martin*

ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

As we move through summer, new laws are taking effect that impact the business community. During the 89th General Assembly, the legislature approved several bills which will become effective in August.

One of particular interest to the Arkansas business community is Act 1041, An Act To Provide a Franchise Tax Penalty and Interest Amnesty Program, described in this issue of **Arkansas, Inc.** We want to help businesses get caught up and current on their business licenses. The amnesty helps businesses that lost their franchise last year (or earlier)

come back to "good standing." Taxes are still due for three (3) years (or less), but during a limited time, all penalties and interest are waived. New forms will soon be available on our website in order to download and file by mail or in person.

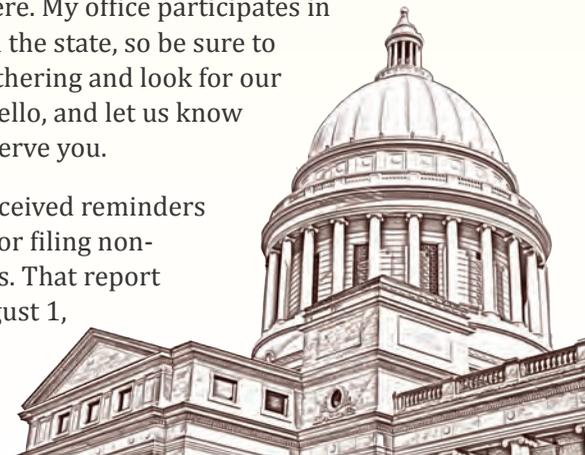
I was honored to attend the Jonesboro, Batesville, Fort Smith and Pine Bluff business expos recently and enjoyed visiting with the great crowds there. My office participates in many events around the state, so be sure to attend your local gathering and look for our table. Drop by, say hello, and let us know how we can better serve you.

Many of you have received reminders about the deadline for filing non-profit annual reports. That report must be filed by August 1,

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Business Expo in Jonesboro



# Make connections, clients at local expos

In the last edition of Arkansas, Inc., we encouraged our readers to become more active in their local business communities through the Chambers of Commerce. One easy and fulfilling way to do this is to attend your local business expo. You'll find a wide variety of vendors, including financial, health care, home improvement, real estate, educational and other services.

The Secretary of State exhibits at as many of these events as possible. This year, we've participated in expos in Batesville, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith and Searcy. We are looking forward to others this season, including the River Valley Business Expo (Aug. 7) and Northwest Arkansas Business Conference and Expo (Sept. 13) and more.

The 10th Annual River Valley Business Expo is produced by the Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce. The expo will be in Arkansas Tech's Tucker Coliseum from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's free and open to the public. For more

information, you may contact the Russellville Chamber of Commerce at (479) 968-2530 or visit [www.russellvillechamber.org](http://www.russellvillechamber.org).

The NWA Business Conference and Expo is conducted by the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and hosts over 230 businesses from across northwest Arkansas. This year's expo is Sept. 13 at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers. For more information, contact the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber at (479) 636-1240 or [www.rogerslowell.com](http://www.rogerslowell.com).

On October 10, the Conway Chamber of Commerce will host its annual expo, which includes a breakfast, business-to-business trade show and the Taste of Conway. The Taste of Conway event gives the community the chance to sample the best food the city has to offer and gives food service providers the opportunity to meet more than 500 company representatives and community members. Visit their website for more information at [www.ConwayArkansas.org](http://www.ConwayArkansas.org).

When attending the expos, please make sure to stop by and visit with a Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services representative. This is your opportunity to have your questions about the services offered by the Secretary of State's office answered in person. We also enjoy feedback about how we may better serve you, your business and your community.



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and can be done online, by mail or in person at our Little Rock offices. Read more about that process in the related article on page 1.

Speaking of deadlines, if you missed the May 1 deadline to file franchise taxes, you can still pay now. Businesses that have not paid franchise taxes by midnight Dec. 31 could have their corporate charter revoked. By paying delinquent taxes now, your business will return to good standing far in advance of the revocation deadline.

Our notary classes have received great response this year. If you haven't attended yet, check out the schedule online at [bit.ly/ARnotary](http://bit.ly/ARnotary). Only a few sessions remain, so sign up today. This seminar is

not required, but you'll receive helpful information, including how new laws affect you as a notary.

Finally, be sure to read about this quarter's Arkansas Icon. We are featuring Arkansas Children's Hospital. From its roots as an orphanage a century ago, to its current place as one of the largest children's hospitals in the nation, ACH has become internationally acclaimed for its pediatric specialties.

For detailed explanations of any legislation, please consult your legal counsel.

I hope you have a great summer. Again, do not hesitate to contact my office at any time if my staff can assist you.

# Arkansas Business Icons: *Arkansas Children's Hospital*

Arkansas Children's Hospital — which just celebrated a century of providing care, love and hope — is one of the state's true business treasures where miracles happen every day for children from around our state, and even from around the world.



## A Rich History of Care, Love & Hope

The private, nonprofit facility incorporated on March 5, 1912, as the Arkansas Children's Home Society, an orphanage for children in need. It opened in Morrilton on 30 acres donated by Emma Hannaford. As medical care became a clear necessity, a two-bed hospital was built on a new Little Rock campus at a cost of \$200,000. The first two surgeries performed there were cleft palate repairs to an infant and a toddler. The medical staff collected donations to help the hospital narrowly survive the Great Depression, then in 1942, ACH opened a convalescence ward for polio patients and became a pioneer in treating the disease.



By July 1954, the Children's Home officially became Arkansas Children's Hospital. After decades of informal collaboration, ACH and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences made their affiliation formal in 1969, working to provide treatment for patients and education to medical students. The 1980s were an era of progress with the beginning of the neonatal transport service and ACH's first neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). By the decade's end, the hospital opened a cardiovascular ICU, launched Angel One helicopter transport and performed its first heart surgery and kidney transplant.

Growth continued in the 1990s with the first heart transplant (the child was only 17 hours old), an expanded NICU (from 30 beds to 53), and a leading-edge Heart Center that has made ACH excel in pediatric cardiac care. Medical innovations became a major focus with the opening of the ACH Research Institute in 1992 and the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center in 1997. As the new millennium dawned, the hospital added a major three-floor expansion to create state-of-the-art operating rooms, recovery suites and pediatric ICU.

## A World-Class Medical Center

Conditions that were mysteries at the start of ACH's first century are now routine treatments. The hospital's medical breakthroughs, intensive treatments, surgical facilities, family-centered care and research have placed ACH among the largest and best children's hospitals in the nation. More than 500 physicians, 80 pediatric residents, 4,000 employees and 2,800 volunteers provide support for 370 inpatient beds, 14,000 annual admissions, 300,000 clinic visits and more than 1,000 helicopter transports each year. More than 80 specialty clinics



**Clockwise from right:**  
A nurse and patient circa 1960. The home and hospital built in 1920. ACH has grown around its original Little Rock hospital — the roof line of the 1924 structure is still visible today.



and services including genetics, asthma, cardiology, diabetes, eating disorders, head injury, neurology, orthopedics, sickle cell, psychiatry, rheumatology, and sleep disorders, just to name a few. ACH is a leader in neuroscience, removal of vascular anomalies, heart transplants, neonatal intensive care and research in pediatric nutrition and congenital heart defects. It is the state's only Level 1 trauma center for pediatrics and has housed the state's only burn center since 1953, admitting patients of all ages. The care reaches across Arkansas with centers in Lowell and Jonesboro and 24 specialty clinics throughout the state. Hospital outreach goes beyond treatment, seeking to prevent injuries through ATV safety, burn prevention and car seat installation programs.

A key to the hospital's approach, administrators say, is understanding that children are not little adults. Care is focused on young patients and their families with attention to the needs of their age and development. Patient care often includes specialists in social work, child life and education, pastoral care, nutrition and others. Treating the whole child is one of the many factors that have transformed the tiny orphanage into a world-class medical center. *Forbes* magazine named ACH among the 100 best places to work from 2008 to 2011, and *U.S. News & World Reports* ranks it among the top pediatric hospitals for cardiology and heart surgery. It is all made possible by the generosity of the citizens of Arkansas who have enabled ACH to continue its mission of providing care without regard to the family's ability, or inability, to pay.

## Growing Into the Future

In 2012, ACH completed its largest expansion ever at a cost of \$121 million funded by donor support and a successful bond issue. The 258,000 square-foot South Wing includes a new emergency department and expanded cardiovascular and neonatal ICUs. Its innovative design is geared toward the well-being, mood and safety of patients, families *and* staff. Interiors follow a theme of "Healing is our Nature," and incorporate elements that reflect the state's geographic areas, as well as outdoor gardens and an indoor atrium that serve to educate and distract. The goal is to make it child-friendly, not childish.

Arkansas Children's Hospital looks to a future of new possibilities offered by advances in electronic data management, genetics and molecular technology.

Above all, the focus will remain to provide the best care for sick and injured kids, supported by efforts in research, education and prevention aimed at keeping children out of the hospital.

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



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### **ATTENTION COMMUNITY LEADERS:**

In next year's elections, a new photo I.D. law goes into effect for Arkansas voters. Help us spread the word to friends, employees and customers. Visit our website to learn more.

[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)

## *Franchise tax amnesty waives penalties & interest*

Are franchise tax payments overdue for your business? Relief may be on its way through a one-time program made possible by new legislation.

For a limited time this year, penalties and interest will be waived on past-due franchise taxes. This is a one-time amnesty for business entities that were "revoked" on or before Dec. 31, 2012.

During the past legislative session, the office of Secretary of State Mark Martin worked for you to ease repayment of old or forgotten franchise tax, paving the way for corporations to return to good standing with the state. Act 1041, sponsored by Senator Eddie Joe Williams of Cabot, allows the Secretary of State's office to provide a franchise tax penalty and interest amnesty program.

Franchise taxes are due each year by May 1 for the previous calendar year; penalties and interest begin to accrue at



that point. When the tax goes unpaid through Dec. 31, the corporation's charter is revoked.

From Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2013, franchise tax interest and penalty amnesty will be granted to taxpayers who submit all applicable franchise tax reports, forms and annual payments.

The program is simple; no explanation from the business is required. Any business can just

fill out a short amnesty application, as well as the applicable franchise tax forms (up to a maximum of three years' taxes). The forms must be filed on paper, however, as online filing for amnesty is not available.

For information or to obtain franchise tax penalty and interest forms, please visit us on the web at [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/).