

## 2015 CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Tuesday, May 19, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
Rural Fire Departments Study
- 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration  
Convention Center Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session, Steve "Wild Man" Wilson  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
City, County & Local Affairs
- 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 1: Resources for Rural Fire Departments  
Session 2: Rural Community Resources
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Event  
Museum of Discovery

### Wednesday, May 20, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration  
Buffet Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 3: Healthcare in Rural Arkansas  
Session 4: Emergency Preparedness & Recovery
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. ARDC Luncheon  
Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Session 5: Political Roundtable
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

### Thursday, May 21, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration  
Buffet Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 6: Workforce Readiness  
Session 7: ADRS New Grant Programs
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
City, County & Local Affairs
- 11:15 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Governor's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony  
Governor Asa Hutchinson

### CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist our communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Department of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up to date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. If there is one goal of this annual event, it would be to provide our participants with the information and resources to help themselves.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural fire fighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of the State of Arkansas.

Arkansans with a genuine interest in a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

### CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

The conference fee is \$125 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$75 per person. Exhibit space is \$300 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by ADRS by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7th, 2015. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge.

Please make checks payable to:

**ARDC**  
**101 East Capitol, Suite 202**  
**Little Rock, AR 72201**  
**Alex.Johnston@Arkansas.gov**

### HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$89 per night are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Marriott Hotel as soon as possible by calling 1-877-759-6290. Discounted room rates expire on Thursday, May 7th, 2015.

**Remember to tell them you are with the Arkansas Rural Development Conference to receive the special block rate.**

Little Rock Marriott Hotel  
Three Statehouse Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
1-877-759-6290