

POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

AHFA ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11 - 14, 2021

THE
BROADMOOR
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO



POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

November 11 - 14, 2021 ♦ The Broadmoor ♦ Colorado Springs, Colorado

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Registration** – Robert Trent Jones Sr. Room Foyer

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **AHFA Board of Directors Meeting** – Robert Trent Jones Sr. Room

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Cocktail Reception** – The Grille
Sponsored by

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Dinner**



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet** – Pompeii Room

8:00 a.m. - 8:05 a.m. **Meeting Welcome** – Main Ballroom
Jeb Bassett, AHFA Chairman 2021
Bassett Furniture Industries



8:05 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Global Economic Report and Outlook for 2022**
Mark Vitner, Wells Fargo



Mark Vitner is a managing director and senior economist for Wells Fargo's Corporate and Investment Bank, where he is responsible for tracking U.S. and regional economic conditions. He contributes to the department's weekly and monthly economic reports and produces regular publications on residential and commercial

construction, regional economies and issues affecting small business. Mark joined a Wells Fargo predecessor institution in 1993. His commentary has been featured in leading newspaper and financial news broadcasts. Mark earned a B.B.A. in economics from the University of Georgia and an M.B.A. from the University of North Florida. He completed further graduate work in economics at the University of Florida and completed the National Association for Business Economics Advanced Training in Economics program at Carnegie Mellon University.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Spouse Breakfast Buffet & Broadmoor Art Tour**
Pompeii Room

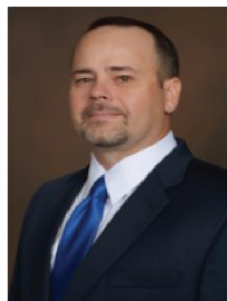
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **Break**

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Why the Home Furnishings Business Will Never Be the Same**
Warren Shoulberg

Warren Shoulberg knows home furnishings. He is a regular contributor to The Robin Report, Forbes.com and The Business of Home as well as his own blog Stupidbusiness.com. As a former editor-in-chief for several leading business-to-business publications specializing in home furnishings retailing, he has chronicled the good, the bad and the ugly of the business in a career spanning four decades. His award-winning commentaries elicit both praise and complaints. He welcomes them both equally. He has guest-lectured at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business and been honored by the International Furnishings and Design Association and the Fashion Institute of Technology. He has been cited by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, *ABC News* and other media as an expert in the field.



10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Cybersecurity: Avoid a Breach that Claims Your Assets**
Dustin Owens, Kivu



Dustin Owens is the VP of Cyber Risk & Resilience capabilities at Kivu, where he focuses on proactive/pre-breach services. He has over 25 years of cyber experience with his core expertise being enterprise risk management and compliance. His industry expertise stems from experience in financial services, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, travel and transportation, hospitality and consumer packaged goods. Previously, he held leadership posts at Lucent Technologies, International Network Services, British Telecom, HP/DXC and Optic Security.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Election of 2022 AHFA Officers and Directors** – Gat Caperton, Gat Creek

12:00 p.m. **Lunch/Departure for Golf, Zip Line Tour and U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum Tour**

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Winter West Golf Course – The Broadmoor is known for its outstanding championship golf course, which will be the home of the U.S. Senior Open in June 2025. Prior to AHFA's early November arrival, the golf maintenance crew will have closed the East Course to preserve in the colder temperatures and shifted to a 10-hole Winter West Course. Golf enthusiasts can choose to play either 10 or 20 holes on both Friday and Saturday afternoons with complimentary greens fees. Box lunches will be provided.



Soaring Adventure – To enjoy a unique view of the mountainside, an optional zip lining tour is scheduled on Friday afternoon. Participants will be discreetly weighed in at arrival and should be wearing closed-toe shoes like tennis shoes or hiking shoes. Participants should join in a group lunch at The Grille at noon and be prepared to board transportation to Seven Falls from the South Drive at 1:00 p.m.



U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum Tour – The new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum is dedicated to America's greatest athletes and their compelling stories, with the artifacts, media and technology behind the athletes that make the United States proud. Participants will enjoy multiple interactive galleries and displays. Participants should join in a group lunch at Golden Bee (behind the International Center) at noon and be prepared to board transportation from the South Drive at 1:00 p.m.



7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Reception and Dinner** – Cheyenne Lodge (6:45 p.m. Shuttle from the South Drive)

AHFA Distinguished Service Award – Farooq Kathwari, Ethan Allen

The American Home Furnishings Alliance traces its roots to one of the oldest trade association in the United States, the North Carolina Case Workers Association. This association was formed in 1905 with the help of James T. Ryan, who served as director for 54 years. When Ryan retired in 1965, the Board of Directors of the then Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association created an honor in his honor. The coveted accolade was known as the James T. Ryan Award for 20 years. In 1986, it was renamed the Distinguished Service Award. Its recipients are individuals who have contributed time and effort to improving the home furnishings industry and to advancing the mission and goals of the association. They are recognized leaders who have achieved excellence within their company and the industry while also contributing to their community.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet** – Pompeiian Room

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. **Meeting Welcome** – Jeb Bassett – Main Ballroom

9:05 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. **Energy Crisis Challenges**
Jessi Ebben, Ashley Furniture

Since December 2020, Jessi Ebben has been the public affairs manager for Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC, managing government affairs as part of the public relations department. She is responsible for creating a connection between organizations and the community and serves as a liaison between government departments and agencies, elected officials, industry associations, businesses, non-profit entities, and the people and communities impacted by Ashley Furniture. Previously, Jessi worked in public relations roles for two different municipalities in the Twin Cities (MN) and for a rural healthcare organization.



9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Break**

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10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. [What's New in Washington?](#)

Bill Simmons and Chris Andresen, Dutko GR



Bill Simmons is a managing principal of Dutko GR, and has led the government affairs counsel for AHFA since 2010. He started his career on Capitol Hill managing diverse issues including appropriations, transportation, higher education, energy, communications, taxes, banking, agriculture and the environment. Prior to joining the firm in 1999, Bill served as staff director for the House Resources' Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health under Chairman of the Resources Committee Don Young (R-AK). Bill also served as a legislative aide to Chairman Jim Hansen (R-UT). In addition, he has been an economic staff member for the National Association of Realtors; a marketing associate for Ivory & Company; and a stockbroker for P.B. Jameson & Company. Bill holds a Ph.D. from Western Governors University and received his B.A. degree from the University of Utah.

Chris Andresen is senior vice president at Dutko GR. He joined the firm in 2006 and works extensively with clients to identify policy opportunities and threats in order to create detailed legislative and executive strategies. His broad experience includes working with companies, universities, non-profits and trade associations specializing in workforce development, consumer products, manufacturing, retail, biotechnology, renewable energy, criminal justice, mental health, technology and higher education. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. degree in history and holds a M.B.A. from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.



10:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m. [Developing Leaders of Character](#)

Dr. Joel Witzel (Retired Lt. Colonel, U.S. Air Force)



Dr. Joel Witzel is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, with 27 years of commissioned service. He graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1988. He studied education at the University of Denver Morgridge College of Education for his doctoral degree (diversity and higher learning), and he has taught extensively in the adult education realm since 1996. From 2004 to 2020, he mainly oversaw character development and taught leadership at the United States Air Force Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development and at the Academy's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. Previously, he served as a KC-135 tanker instructor navigator, Air Force Officer Training School Operations Officer, and OTS Director of Training. In 2011, he deployed to Afghanistan for a year, advising the Afghan Air Force in training and manpower.

12:00 p.m. [Lunch/Departure for Golf and Pikes Peak Tour](#)

Winter West Golf Course – The Broadmoor is known for its outstanding championship golf course, which will be the home of the U.S. Senior Open in June 2025. Prior to AHFA's early November arrival, the golf maintenance crew will have closed the East Course to preserve in the colder temperatures and shifted to a 10-hole Winter West Course. Golf enthusiasts can choose to play either 10 or 20 holes on both Friday and Saturday afternoons with complimentary greens fees. Box lunches will be provided.



Pikes Peak Tour – The purple mountains majesties surrounding Colorado Springs are stunning to observe, with Pikes Peak – America's Mountain – as the shining jewel in the center of this panoramic crown. The tour will make several stops at points of interest along the way. Participants should join in a group lunch at The Grille at noon and be prepared to board transportation from the South Drive at 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

[Departures](#)

