



January 23, 2018

America Outdoors Association Bulletin

Congress Votes to Fund Government Until February 8th

Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution on January 22nd, which was signed by the President, to provide funding for government operations until February 8th. Congress has not yet approved annual budget appropriations for FY2018, which started October 1, 2017. The short-term funding mechanism, called a continuing resolution, continues funds at the level for the previous year until a final budget passes. Government operations should return to normal almost immediately.

Data Needed for Meeting on Higher Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors

Next week, America Outdoors Association representatives from around the country will be meeting with federal agencies and Congressional leaders on a variety of issues of importance to the outfitting industry. Among the issues include:

- An exemption for our industry from E.O. 13658, which requires a higher minimum wage for federal contractors, (See the request for information below);
- H.R. 2771, which restores the seasonal recreational establishment exemption in the Fair Labor Standards Act for outfitters;
- The GO Act, which will be introduced in the Senate this week. We will be seeking co-sponsors. The GO Act has already passed the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Exploring a short-haul exemption of 150 air-miles for 9 to 15 passenger vans under 26,000 lbs gross weight.
- Meeting with all the federal-land managing agencies on the issues and changes occurring at each, including their regulatory reform agenda.
- Infrastructure bill, which is supposed to have a big component for rural economies. We submitted input to Congress last year on possible projects that you sent to us.

What we need from you for a key meeting on the higher minimum wage for federal contractors:

We need stories and data about the impacts of E.O. 13658 on your business. We have some but need a few more. All the data will be anonymous. The minimum wage for 2018 for federal contractors and permit holders is \$10.35/hr and \$15.52 unless you are in a state with stricter standards, in which case the state standards apply.

Please supply this information to dbrown@americaoutdoors.org on or before noon eastern time on Thursday, January 25th on the impacts of this requirement on your business (now or in the future if it becomes applicable)

- Brief description of business and services (% of day trips/% in back country and general locations)
- Gross revenues.
- Number of full-time (more than 4 months per year) and number of seasonal employees.
- Impacts of compliance with higher minimum wage on your business and services, such as
 - Modification or elimination of services and business
 - % of price increase required to comply
 - Impact on number of employees and hours worked
 - Any other reflections.

Discover the Rewards of these Special Events

Manager's Academy - [REGISTER TODAY](#)

April 10-11, 2018

Grand Junction, CO

Price \$375 until January 31 for all AOA members

The Manager's Academy is designed for NEW or emerging managers on your staff. This 2-day educational event will expose these leaders to key concepts for personal success in the outfitting industry. Topics will include how to create a winning culture and how to manage former peers (and new bosses), how to effectively recruit additional staff members, how to create an experience that makes customers eager to return (and what to do with those who aren't), risk management and a WHOLE lot more.

For more information contact: Julie Kahlfeldt, Executive Director, 865-558-3595.

Sign-up Today for the George Wendt Memorial Trip

September 17-21, 2018

Cataract Canyon, UT

Price: First Person \$1400, Additional Guests \$1100

AOA is pleased to announce that another trip has been donated by the Wendt family and O.A.R.S., with a portion of the proceeds going the America Outdoors Association Government Affairs program. We at AOA are thankful for the continued generosity of the O.A.R.S. team know this will be an awesome opportunity!

George was president of O.A.R.S. for 45 years until his passing in July 2016. He was a visionary entrepreneur and one of the adventure travel industry's trailblazers.

Today, Tyler and Clavey Wendt, George and Pam's sons, lead the company. They're dedicated to the company's commitment to preserve wild places and to create meaningful outdoor experiences for guests.

ADVENTURE OVERVIEW

Rafting in Utah on the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon has it all: breathtaking scenery, easy floating and wild, Class III whitewater. Add to that rollicking Utah hiking expeditions by foot in Utah's dramatic canyon country among multi-million-year-old rock formations and you have a whitewater rafting adventure suitable for the whole gang. Explore Canyonlands National Park created in the wake of the John

Wesley Powell expedition of 1869 and get a taste of the wild wet waters of the Colorado River from the deck of your O.A.R.S. raft, dory or stand up paddleboard.

SPACE IS LIMITED

This trip is limited to the first 24 people who register!

For more information contact: Julie Kahlfeldt, Executive Director, 865-558-3595.

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<http://www.commpartners.com/website/white-listing.htm>

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