On July 20, 1892, in what the Denver Post called a “splendid display of western manhood,” 61 Colorado bankers convened at the chamber of commerce and spoke of organizing the Colorado State Bankers Association. The group operated informally for about a decade, then officially founded the Colorado Bankers Association in 1902. The first order of business was to discuss the benefits and setbacks of branch banking, which finally came to a resolution exactly 90 years later with the state’s implementation of branch banking in 1992.

In 2017, an American Banking Journal study showed branches still dominate retail account openings—and that banks’ younger customers were the most likely to frequent branches.

In the 1920s CBA posted rewards for the capture of wanted “bank bandits.” The association even considered offering a higher reward for turning over dead “bandits” but ultimately decided against the idea. Today, CBA proactively works to keep Coloradans identities safe, and funds secure by actively developing and funding the creation of the Colorado Fraud Investigators (a fraud-specific division of the Colorado Bureau of Investigators).

CBA in the 2017 legislative session ensured the fraud investigators unit will continue to receive funding.

In the wake of the Great Depression, bankers associations worked to persuade Congress to keep the country’s payments system competitive and well-oiled, by repealing a tax imposed on bank checks. On March 8, 1933, CBA wrote to its members, “(We) request that you forward under your name immediately by wire to your Congressman in Washington D.C. the following quote: “This bank directs your attention the urgent importance of immediately amending revenue act of 1932 to eliminate United States tax on checks... to encourage more general use of bank checks as a circulating medium.”

CBA joined other state bankers associations in a continued effort in 2017 to urge Congress to repeal the Durbin Amendment and keep debit transactions affordable and attractive for banks, customers and retailers.

Today, just as in 1892, CBA focuses on creating a stronger economy and helping Coloradans realize dreams by building better banks.
Hey CBA, just checking in. What have you been up to in the last 12 months?

Where should we start? J/K. Federal GR? State GR? Membership and education? PR?

Let’s talk Federal level. *Please* tell me we’re getting somewhere on regulatory reform.

It’s simple: Reg relief will pass the U.S. House easily. But we need the 52 GOP Senators + 8 or more moderate Dems to make the required 60 votes to pass the Senate.

That’s a heavy lift. Arguments that will sway those 8+ Dems are those that show CUSTOMER benefit, not bank benefit. Many provisions of the House-passed bill won’t get through the Senate. Pres. Trump will sign it.

AND, Congressman Tipton visited us on May 5 and talked about the TAILOR act. So… we’re kind of a big deal. 🤩

LOL! What’s the scoop at the state level?

Well, CBA led the charge to defeat a state-sponsored retirement plan for a second year. (Can you believe participants’ funds wouldn’t be protected?!)
Also, we proactively ensured banks can rely on certificates of trust to ensure Colorado is competitive.
And, we worked with a broad coalition to find some relief in affordable housing, regarding construction defects. We prevailed more than 98% of the time and lobbied 128 bills. You know, just a few little old things. HA!!

SIX new bank members and 15 new associate members! 🌟

How about membership? Staying strong? 💪

Speaking of strong, our PR efforts go beyond defending banks in the media. We endorse a teller training program (for immigrants, single parents…) run by Goodwill and 85% have been hired by banks! Also we sponsored a Business Expo with minority and women chambers of commerce. Our Center for Bank Advocacy program is in its 5th year and has produced 50 new bank advocates 12 of whom serve on the CBA board or GAC committee!
And while we’re on the subject, did you see our new Fix Dodd-Frank video? It’s awesome. 🎥

...apparently you haven’t been reading News of the Week! We tripled our subscribers to Colorado Banker! Seriously? U R not one of the THOUSANDS of visits to coloradobankers.org? Shame on you!
Friend, we’re on Twitter and Facebook too!

OMG! How did I not know all of this?!

Noted! 😞 I’ll get right on that. TTYL!