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Meeting & Event Peers Celebrated at Inaugural 'Best Of' Awards

Chicago, IL — Meeting and event planning professionals gathered for the inaugural "Best Of" awards May 11, sponsored by *Illinois Meetings & Events*, the premier regional trade publication for meeting planning professionals and hospitality service providers in the state of Illinois. The event was planned to honor the top faces, places and service providers in the state as chosen through a reader poll.

Hundreds of votes were cast through a ballot inserted into the magazine as well as online voting through the publication's Web site, www.ilmeetings.com. Winners were revealed during an awards party at Blue Water Grill in Chicago. The evening included food and beverages and entertainment provided by Blue Water Grill.

Winners of the 2006 Best Of awards include:

Hotel with Meeting and Event Space: Lincolnshire Marriott Resort

Hotel with Best Service: The Peninsula Chicago

Illinois Attractions: Navy Pier

Audio/Visual or Presentation Service Provider: The Meetinghouse Companies

Off-site Caterer: Blue Plate

On-site Caterer: Aramark

Event Decor & Design: The Meetinghouse Companies

Florist: Kehoe Designs

Entertainment: Carmel Music & Entertainment

Speaker: Joe O'Rourke

Rental Service Company: Hall's

Meeting Planning & Production Company: The Meetinghouse Companies

Event Photographer or Videographer: Studio Out West

Talent Agency: Prism Enterprises

Transportation Company: Your Private Limo

Cultural Venue: The Field Museum

Boat Cruises & Charters: Kanan Cruises

Casino with Meeting & Event Space: Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino

Conference Center: University Conference Center Chicago

Convention Center: McCormick Place

Exhibition Space: McCormick Place

Meeting Facility: University Conference Center Chicago
Banquet Facility: Indian Lakes Resort
Reception Facility: Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Chicago Northwest
Holiday Party Venue: Rokit Bar & Grill
Team Building Facility: Windy City Fieldhouse
Golf Resort: Marriott Lincolnshire
Destination Management Company: On the Scene Chicago
Unique Venue: Catalyst Ranch
Outdoor Venue: Millennium Park
Game/Recreation Venue: US Cellular Field

The meetings and events industry is a multi-million dollar profession with ongoing training and education through associations and publications. *Illinois Meetings & Events* magazine is one of five meetings and events titles published by parent company Tiger Oak Publications, based in Minneapolis, Minn. For more about *Illinois Meetings & Events* or to receive a subscription, call (612) 548-3180 or log on to www.ilmeetings.com.

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