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***Illinois Meetings + Events* magazine announces**

Best of 2008 Readers' Choice Awards & Hall of Fame Inductees

Chicago, Illinois, February 13, 2009 – The best of the meetings and events industry was on display last night as 300 meeting and event professionals applauded the industry's finest at the fourth annual *Illinois Meetings + Events* Best of 2008 Readers' Choice awards celebration at The Underground in Chicago.

The awards honor the dedication and creativity of event professionals who have earned the respect and admiration of their clients and peers. The award winners were selected through an online reader poll. The winner are:

Best Attraction – Navy Pier
Best Audio-Visual – The Meetinghouse Companies, Inc.
Best Banquet/Reception Venue – Tie between Galleria Marchetti and River East Art Center
Best Boats/Cruises/Charters - Kanan Cruises
Best Caterer – Blue Plate Catering
Best Conference Venue – Gleacher Center
Best Convention & Visitors Bureau – Chicago Convention & Visitors Bureau
Best Destination Management Company – On the Scene
Best Eco-Friendly Supplier – Greg Christian Catering and Events
Best Entertainment – Just for Fun Entertainment and Events, Inc.
Best Décor – Kehoe Designs
Best Florist – The Meetinghouse Companies, Inc.
Best Golf Resort – Lincolnshire Marriott Resort
Best Historic Venue – Chicago History Museum
Best Hotel with Meeting Space (less than 440 rooms) – The Blackstone Hotel
Best Hotel with Meeting Space (more than 440 rooms) – Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Best Photography/Videography – Tie between Promax Productions and Studio T Photography
Best Rental Service – Classic Party Rentals
Best Teambuilding Facility/Organizer – Corporate Event Interactive
Best Transportation – Windy City Limousine
Best Unique Venue – Chicago Illuminating Company
Best Venue Outside Chicagoland – Pheasant Run Resort
Editor's Pick Best Event Décor – Ivan Carlson & Associates
Editor's Pick Best New Intimate Event Space – Vertigo Sky Lounge
Editor's Pick Best Casino – Horseshoe Casino
Editor's Pick Best Experimental Event Expert – Minding Your Business

New this year, *Illinois Meetings + Events* magazine recognized its first-ever Hall of Fame, chosen by the magazine's editorial advisory board.

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Lifetime Achievement - Bill Pry, Partner - BBJ Linen

Best Special Events Planner - Andrew Schorr, President and Principal - In the Loop

Best Meeting Professional - Kimberly LaBounty, President - Apex Management & Special Events Inc.

Best Up-and-Coming Meeting Professional - Justin Rhodes, Associate - Corporate Events for Jones Lang LaSalle, Chicago

Best Supplier - Jim Grillo, President - hereschicago.com

Best Up-and-Coming Supplier - Renee Barricklow, Event Producer - Kehoe Designs, Chicago

"We are pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions of these organizations and individuals to the meetings and events industry, which plays an important role in Illinois's vitality and economy," says Lauren Hurley, editor of *Illinois Meetings + Events* magazine.

Thank you to our event partners; Underground, The Meetinghouse Companies, Inc. and Classic Party Rentals, Jeff Brown Photography.

Illinois Meetings + Events magazine is one of eight regional meetings and events magazines published by Tiger Oak Publications, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. The idea-driven magazine focuses on the issues facing today's meeting and event professionals in Illinois and beyond and looks to address all aspects of the industry through in-depth feature stories, insightful departments and helpful news and updates on tips and trends. For more information and to view photos from the event, visit www.ilmeetingsmag.com.

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