DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary at Annual Meeting

Oak Brook, IL - The DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) held its annual meeting and 25th anniversary celebration on Thursday, September 12. Over 250 members, partners and dignitaries were on hand for the luncheon meeting held at the Drury Lane Theatre & Convention Center in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. The keynote was delivered by Janet Davies, ABC 7 Chicago's award-winning feature and entertainment reporter.

Mike Feigenbaum, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the DuPage CVB and General Manager at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center hotel, kicked off the meeting by toasting to the bureau’s 25 year milestone. He then awarded the DuPage CVB’s annual SMILES award to John Lounibos of the Hyatt Lodge at McDonald’s Campus in Oak Brook for his exemplary customer service.

The “State of the Bureau” address was given by Ms. Skip Strittmatter, Executive Director for the DuPage CVB. Strittmatter spoke of the part the bureau played in helping DuPage County tourism generate a recording-breaking year in tourism revenue. She stressed the importance of working together and being “tourists in your own town” in order to help create a richer experience for visitors to DuPage County.

“The hospitality industry brings billions of dollars in revenue into DuPage County annually. This revenue affects our quality of life, provides jobs for our citizens, and decreases dependency on state and local taxation,” stated Strittmatter. “It is crucial that we all continue to work together to deliver the message that tourism is a valuable industry that benefits business, government and the economy as a whole.”

As keynote, Ms. Davies conducted an interactive exercise in which audience members were invited to act as “producers” in creating an imaginary half-hour show about DuPage County that was patterned after 190 North, the Emmy award winning entertainment and lifestyle series she co-hosted and executive produced.

The CVB’s Fiscal 2014 Board of Directors was announced and the DuPage CVB staff was introduced. Mr. Feigenbaum begins his second year as chairman. Other members of the DuPage CVB’s Executive Board include:

- Charles Reece, Vice Chairman - Eaglewood Resort & Spa
- Suzanne Beres, Secretary - Oakbrook Center
- Larry Forssberg, Treasurer - Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

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Continuing members of the Presidential Advisory Committee are Joe Endress of McDonald’s Corporation and Jonathan Stein of Inland Real Estate Brokerage, Inc.

The Fiscal 2014 Board of Directors includes:

- Greg Bedalov - Choose DuPage
- Brian Bergheger - Elmhurst Historical Museum
- David Bird - DuPage Airport Authority
- Richard Brink - Hilton Lisle/Naperville
- Jeff Brown - Hotel Arista
- Mayor David Brummel - City of Warrenville
- Norm Canfield - Hyatt Lodge at McDonald's Campus
- Jerry Cohen - Yorktown Center
- Jim Elsener - Daily Herald Business Ledger
- Village President Keith Giagnorio - Village of Lombard
- Donald Hill - Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook
- Tonia Khouri - DuPage County Representative
- Matt LaFond - Cantigny Park
- Mary Beth Leone - College of DuPage
- David Niemeyer - Village of Oak Brook
- Sarah O'Donnell - Wheaton Park District
- Mayor Jeffrey Pruyn - Village of Itasca
- Brad Walsh - Odeum Expo Center

For more information about DuPage County tourism, contact the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.232.0502 or info@discoverdupage.com.

About DuPage County
DuPage County is the second most populous county in Illinois after Cook County, which borders it to the north and east. Together, the two counties account for half of the state’s population. One of the nation’s wealthiest counties, DuPage is rich in many types of commerce and is second only to Cook in tourism revenue. With its well-developed highway and mass transit system, DuPage is easily accessible from O'Hare and Midway Airports, as well as the City of Chicago.

About DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau
The DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau was established through the efforts of a coalition of DuPage area hotel executives and business representatives in 1987, and was formally certified in 1989 by the State of Illinois. It remains the official agency for promoting the county’s multibillion dollar tourism industry and market DuPage County as an enticing destination for leisure and business travelers, meeting planners, groups and conventions, in order to enhance the economic development of the area.

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