



For Immediate Release

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Oak Ridge Chamber is Finalist for Chamber of the Year Award

July 15, 2008 – The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce has been named a finalist for the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Chamber of the Year Award. It is one of three finalists chambers within its peer group. The winner will be announced later this summer at the ACCE conference in Pittsburgh.

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes the role chambers play in leading businesses and communities. 44 organizations in the Oak Ridge Chamber's peer group across the country initially qualified for the award through a multi-stage process involving an operational survey and examination of supporting documentation and exhibits. This narrowed the field down to three. A final interview will occur in coming weeks.

According to Mark Harvey of The Cowperwood Company and Chairman of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, "Being named one of three finalists for this award is a huge honor for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. It is truly gratifying for this organization to be recognized for excellence by an outside third party."

Chuck Hope of Chuck's Car Care and Vice-chairman of the Chamber's Organization Value strategic area said, "I'm thrilled to know that this chamber is being honored by an organization of its peers. One of my goals as vice-chairman of the Organizational Value area is to seek opportunities to demonstrate what a quality chamber this is. This kind of honor goes a long way towards letting our

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community and our membership know how fortunate we are to have a chamber of this caliber in our community."

The Oak Ridge Chamber's qualifying documentation focused on its organizational excellence, as well as its continued efforts to support housing and retail within the community.

Ben Andrews, General Manager of ORUD and Immediate-past-chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors said, "This award not only speaks to the excellence of your Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, but it also shows the kind of outstanding volunteer leadership we are fortunate to have in this chamber. This chamber wouldn't be the organization it is without the strong partnership it has between its dedicated volunteers and its professional staff."

Parker Hardy, President and CEO said, "The Chamber works hard in this community. The focus we have had on housing over the past several years is paying off now with six new housing developments underway within the city and an effort to encourage those who work here to live here. The Chamber also continues to build relationships with retail developers and retail location consultants across the country. Those relationships are key to laying the groundwork for future retail growth in Oak Ridge."

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is also the recipient of two awards from the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) 24th Annual Award for Communications Excellence (ACE). *Solid as Oak*, the interactive portfolio, used for residential recruitment, received an award of Excellence; *Economic Vitality*, the Chamber's 2007 program of work and annual report received an award of Merit.

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is a Four-Star Accredited Chamber of Commerce with approximately 700 members.

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