



For Immediate Release

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Oak Ridge Named Among Top Chambers

August 25, 2008 – The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce has been acknowledged as one of America’s top three Chambers. Recognized as one of three finalists for the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Chamber of the Year Award, the Chamber was in contention with chambers from Bowling Green, KY (population 53,176) and Lubbock, TX (population 209,737).

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes the role chambers play in leading businesses and communities. Forty-four organizations in the Oak Ridge Chamber’s peer group across the country eventually qualified for the award through a multi-stage process involving an operational survey and examination of supporting documentation and exhibits. The final stage in the process was an interview with a panel of judges in Pittsburgh, PA.

Parker Hardy, President of the Oak Ridge Chamber, said, “We’re proud to have been considered for this recognition. I think it is especially impressive when we consider that both of the other nominated chambers are in communities far larger than ours. It is third party verification of our efforts to build a better economic climate and of the relevancy of our initiatives. Although the Lubbock Chamber took highest honors, there were no losers. Every Chamber that qualified is a winner.”

Mark Harvey of The Cowperwood Company and Chairman of the Oak Ridge Chamber’s Board of Directors agreed. “As a volunteer,” he said, “I am very proud of the Chamber for being recognized as one of the top chambers in the country. It is quite an honor for the almost seven hundred firms that are members of the Chamber.”

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Chuck Hope of Chuck’s Car Care and Vice-chairman of the Chamber’s Organizational Value strategic area said, “Having our Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce recognized as one of the top chambers in the country by an organization of its peers is an honor. It speaks to the volunteer support the chamber has as well as the professionalism of its staff.”

Hardy, Executive Vice President Greta Ownby and Vice President Mitzi Burgess attended the conference along with chamber executives from around the country and several foreign delegations.

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce also received two prestigious communications awards. *Solid as Oak*, the interactive portfolio used by the Chamber 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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