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Chamber Holds Annual Membership Luncheon

SCRANTON, PA, November 2, 2006—The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce hosted more than 400 business leaders at its Annual Membership Luncheon at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. The Annual Membership Luncheon was sponsored by Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank. The featured speaker of the event was Jon Spoelstra, president of the Pro Teams Division of Mandalay Baseball.

At the event, The University of Scranton College of Graduate and Continuing Education presented MetroAction, Inc. "Micro-Grants" to area childcare providers Children's Palace in Hallstead, Susquehanna County, Angela's Child Development in Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Precious Ones Daycare in Greenfield Township, Lackawanna County, Little People Daycare School in Scranton, Lackawanna County, and Endless Mountain Learning Center in New Milford. As part of MetroAction's initiative to improve the quality of affordable childcare in northeastern Pennsylvania, MetroAction is awarding Micro-Grants to childcare providers in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

At the event, the Chamber issued 19 Pride & Progress Awards. The Pride & Progress Awards were sponsored by Pennoni Associates Inc. Since 1975, the Chamber has recognized Lackawanna County's public and private sector operations for upgrading their establishments, improving the appearance of their respective neighborhoods, and beautifying the region. Presentations are made in the categories of exterior renovations, interior renovations, new building construction, landscape and site design, and community pride.

The "Exterior Renovations" award recipient is Daron Northeast Liberty Commons.

"Interior Renovations" award recipients are Faccia Luna at Electric City Bank, Hibble Organization, Martini Grill, Performance Space at the Hotel Jermyn, Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Ronald McDonald House, St. Joseph's Center Cognetti Room, The New Metropolitan Real Estate Office, Stadium Clubhouse Expansion, and X-Static.

"New Building Construction" award recipients include Central Police Headquarters serving the City of Scranton, Clubhouse at Big Bass Lake, Dunmore Community Center, Jerry's For All Seasons,

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Marywood University Robert J. Mellow Center for Athletics and Wellness, Scranton Orthopaedic Specialists, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Terminal Building.

The "*Community Pride*" award recipient is Festival of the Arts.

"Every year, we recognize outstanding community betterment work," stated Julie Ropoch, community relations director, the Chamber. "This year was no exception. Tremendous financial commitments are represented by this year's award recipients." To be eligible for a Pride & Progress Award, the facility must be located within the Chamber's service area. The structure must be a commercial or public building, and must have been renovated, constructed, or landscaped within the last two years. Construction or renovation of private residences is ineligible.

The event also featured the unveiling of the 2006 Hometown Star Award winner, which is the Nutcracker Ballet. The Hometown Star Award, sponsored by Pennstar Bank, recognizes an individual or organization for an event that has made a significant economic impact on the greater Scranton area. To be eligible for the Hometown Star Award, the organization must be located within Lackawanna County. The event must have taken place most recently within the previous year, and should have had a significant economic impact on Lackawanna County. Entries can be self-nominated or nominated by an individual involved in the organization. The Steamtown Marathon was presented with the third annual Hometown Star Award in 2005.

Sponsored by Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Chamber announced that the American Cancer Society and Schott North America are recipients of the Healthy Workplace Awards Program. The program recognizes companies that have adopted wellness practices in the workplace. It is a collaboration of the Chamber, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jon Spoelstra's reputation as one of the most innovative and successful sports marketers is well earned, as has been clearly demonstrated at every stop in his career. Under his leadership, one of Mandalay's teams, the Dayton Dragons, set a record that had never been achieved before: it sold out every ticket to every game during a season. The Dragons have gone on to repeat that accomplishment now for a remarkable five straight seasons.

As president and chief operating officer of the New York Nets, a position that he held for three years, Jon dramatically increased ticket and sponsorship sales. During his tenure, the team set its all-time attendance record. Jon was the founder and chairman of SRO Partners, a sports marketing consulting firm that works with teams in the NBA, NHL, MLB and teams in Japan and Spain. In the eleven years that Jon served as the Senior VP/General Manager of the Portland Trail Blazers, Jon helped make the front office a model for all team sports. During his time there, there was never a game that wasn't sold out.

Jon has written three books. His newest book, "Marketing Outrageously, How to Increase Your Revenues by Staggering Amounts," was released in July of 2001 and became a Wall Street Journal best-seller. His book "Ice to the Eskimos," a general marketing book based on Jon's sports marketing strategies, was released in June of 1997. "Success is Just One Wish Away," a motivational book on how anybody can develop a passion for their job and life, was released in June of 1999.

For more information, log on to www.scrantonchamber.com, or contact Ms. Ropoch, at 570.342.7711 or at jropoch@scrantonchamber.com.

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