



9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210
Westchester
Phone 310/645-5151
FAX 310/645-0130
Web Page: www.laxcoastal.com

For Immediate Release June 5, 2007

Chamber Installation Dinner to Honor Members, Install New Leadership and Name Honorary Mayor

(Los Angeles, California - June 5, 2007) In an evening sure to be filled with glitz, glamour and an Asian flair, members and guests of the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce will salute outgoing President Steve Donell and welcome new Chairman of the Board John Theuer, the chief financial officer of Panda Restaurant Group, at the Chamber's annual Installation Dinner.

The event, themed "A Year of Good Fortune," will celebrate the beginning of Theuer's term. He will guide the organization through June 30, 2008, and his first duty as Chairman of the Board will be riding in the Chamber's annual Fourth of July Parade.

The installation will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 15 at the Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel, at which time Donell will present awards to Chamber members who have made significant contributions during the 2006-2007 Chamber year.

Honorees that will be recognized include: *Outstanding Committee*— Government Affairs, Tom Flintoft; *Outstanding Merchant* – John Theuer, Panda Restaurant Group Inc.; *Outstanding Event* – City of Angels Awards, Sibyl Buchanan; *Outstanding Service Award* – Mike Mitchell, Innovative Realtors; *Outstanding Member*, Howard Pollack, Rainbow Acres Natural Foods; *Public Service Award* – Steve Napolitano, Field Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe's Office; *Rising Star Award* – Mary Taylor, Got Promos? LLC; *Outstanding Program*, Chamber Ambassadors, Christina Neiwirth; *Helmsman Leadership Award* – Geoff Maleman, Maleman Ink; *Jim Bunch Spirit Award* – Diane Barretti, Sievers/Burnett Press; *Hugo A. Francis Volunteer of the Year* –Gail Gaddi, Los Angeles World Airports; *Pierre Basbous Honorary Mayors Award* – John Ruhlen; and *President's Award* – Christina Davis, LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Installing Officer at this year's event will be Los Angeles Kings commentator Darryl Evans.

He will install the following individuals, who have been elected by the membership to serve three-year terms on the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: Chairman of the Board – John Theuer, Panda Restaurant Group; Chairman of the Board-Elect – Jim Ferro, Peckar & Abramson, P.C.; Immediate Past Chairman of the Board – Steve Donell, Jalmar Properties, Inc.; Secretary – Cozette Vergari, Vergari & Associates; Treasurer - David Voss, Voss, Silverman & Braybrooke, LLP; Vice Chairman Governmental Advocacy – Tom Flintoft, GCC Rose & Kindel; Vice Chairman Membership - Sibyl Buchanan, Playa Vista; Vice Chairman Special Events - Gwen Vuchsas, Seco Investigative & Security Services and Vice Chairman At-Large – Mike Mitchell, Innovative Realtors.

Other incoming board members include: Mike Arias, Arias Ozzello & Gignac, LLP; Diane Barretti, Sievers/Burnett Press; Dan Cohen, The Kitchen Store; Mia Falkenstein, Hornblower Cruises and Events; Gail Gaddi, Los Angeles World Airports; John Gordon, Otis College of Art and Design; Clarence

Griffin, Loyola Marymount University; Robb Hupp, Rothl Hupp Growth Partners, Inc.; Terry Issac, Decron Properties; Seymour Kahn; Cody Koopmann, H.B. Drollinger Company; Pat Lyon, Westchester Watch Works; Geoff Maleman, Maleman Ink Public Relations; Mike Mitchell, Innovative Realtors; Christina Neiwirth, Arbonne International; Tony Palermo, Tony P's Dockside Grill; Larry Plotkin, LMP Consulting Group, Inc.; Howard Pollack, Rainbow Acres Natural Foods; Dr. Yariv Rothman, Vitality Health Center; Christine Rundle. Patrick Rundle Electrical; Wayne Slappy, First Federal Bank; Kathi Woodley, Southwest Airlines Co.; and Patricia Younis, The Bridge Group.

At the installation, Theuer will formally announce longtime Westchester resident Larry Plotkin as the community's Honorary Mayor. Theuer said he chose Plotkin for his longtime involvement and dedication to the community. Plotkin is the immediate past president of the Playa Sunrise Rotary Club, a longtime Rotarian and graduate of Westchester High School. He is also an active supporter of the Westchester Family YMCA, the Airport Marina Counseling Center and the Computer Access Center. He shares this honor with his father, Morris Plotkin, who was the Chamber's Honorary Mayor in 1994-1995. They are the only father and son to be named Honorary Mayor since the practice began more than 50 years ago.

The Installation Dinner will also include the announcement of the honorees for the Fritz B. Burns Outstanding Leadership and Community Service Award – Seymour and Monica Kahn.

###

Since 1953, the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce has taken the lead on meaningful issues affecting the business and residential communities it represents. The Chamber works to promote business and support the communities of Westchester, Playa del Rey, Marina del Rey, Playa Vista and LAX.

###