



DATE: November 24, 2008

CONTACT: Rebecca J. Guzy Woodford
Vice President, Marketing & Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Greater Akron Chamber is Pleased to Announce the
2008 Local Elected Officials Recognition Award Honorees

The vitality of the Greater Akron Region is dependent on the vision and collaboration of our local elected officials. Each year, the Greater Akron Chamber recognizes local elected officials from Medina, Summit and Portage Counties for their commitment to economic development and community improvement. The Chamber is pleased to announce that the 2008 Local Elected Officials Recognition Award honorees are: Commissioner Patricia Geissman from Medina County nominated by Jim Douth, Medina County Economic Development Corporation; Mayor Thomas Wagner, City of Streetsboro nominated by Portage County Auditor Janet Esposito; and Mayor William Currin, City of Hudson nominated by the Greater Akron Chamber. In addition, the Chamber will be recognizing Congressman Ralph Regula with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Honorable Patricia Geissman of Lodi has been serving as Medina County Commissioner since being elected as the first female commissioner in 1992. Her tremendous leadership is shown by serving as the liaison to the Medina County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) for the past 12 years. During her time with MCEDC, she has been a key affiliate with the core initiatives including the Median County University Center, the creation of the Medina County Business Technology Park and the designation of four Foreign Trade Zones in Medina County. In addition, she is past president of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

Streetsboro mayor, Thomas Wagner, has provided sound leadership to the fourth largest city in the county, which is projected to become the second largest city by the next census. He has appointed a planning director, and they are working toward a regional approach regarding storm water management and watershed basics. Since becoming Mayor, the City of Streetsboro has become a member of the local Chamber, and Wagner remains active in interacting with Chamber members to promote economic growth in the community.

Under Mayor William Currin's leadership, the city of Hudson has been a proactive force for economic development. Since becoming Mayor in 2003, he has been elected Chairman of the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association (NEOM&CMA), the first from outside of Cuyahoga County. The NEOM&CMA is a leader on government collaboration and efficiency as part of the Fund For Our Economic Future's Advance Northeast Ohio economic action plan. Most recently, Currin led the city as it joined with the City of Boston Heights to discuss forming a tax-sharing joint economic development district at their community borders. He is also participating in the Summit County Mayors Association's "Path Finding Trade Mission to India" this December, to create a collective business relationship with India.

-more-

Congressman Ralph Regula represents Ohio's 16th District and has shown outstanding leadership on Ohio's important issues. He served as Chairmen of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS & Ed) from 200-2006 and focused on making the education system stronger and making healthcare accessible to everyone. Prior to the LHHS & Ed Appropriations Subcommittee, he led the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and funded the redevelopment of the Ohio and Erie Canalway, as well as the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. As the Congressman retires, the Greater Akron Chamber would like to recognize him for over 30 years of public service and achievements in making our community a better place.

The above honorees will be recognized at the fifth annual Local Elected Officials Recognition Award Luncheon on Friday, December 5, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. Please call the Greater Akron Chamber at (330) 237-1262 for more information.

###

*The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development
and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region.*