

## 2009 Taste of Peoria

On August 12th, the community came out in full force to enjoy the beautiful evening with great food and fun live entertainment at the 2009 Taste of Peoria. The judges tempted their taste buds with all of the delicious treats at this year's Taste of Peoria.

The judges struggled to choose between their favorite dishes, but when all was said and done, and tasted, the awards were presented as follows:

### Best Appetizer -

- 1st – Qdoba Mexican Grill ~ Chips & Queso
- 2nd – Twin Towers Café ~ Roasted Poblano Chili & Corn Soup
- 3rd – Cracked Pepper Catering ~ Potatoes w/ Cheese Fondue

### Best Casual Entree -

- 1st – Cracked Pepper Catering ~ Italian Beef Sandwich
- 2nd – Chef's Catering ~ Hickory Smoked Beef Brisket

- 3rd - Hick'ry Stick ~ Hickory Smoked Pulled Beef Brisket

### Best Entree -

- 1st – Thanh Linh Vietnamese Restaurant ~ Spicy Lemongrass Chicken
- 2nd – Chef's Catering ~ Italian Beef
- 3rd – Gracie's ~ BBQ Pulled Pork

### Best Dessert -

- 1st – Uncle Bob's Homemade Ice Cream ~ Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake
- 2nd- Uncle Bob's Homemade Ice Cream ~ Fudge Brownie Sundae
- 3rd – Culver's of East Peoria ~ Turtle Sundae
- Showmanship - Carnegie's 501
- HOIHA would like to congratulate Peoria

Area Community Events (PACE) on another successful Taste of Peoria. We would also like to thank all of this year's judges including several members of the HOI Professional Chefs Association, the participating restaurants and everyone who filled up on the delicious cuisine offered at this outstanding event.



7150 N. University St.  
Peoria, Illinois 61614  
(309) 693-9667  
www.HOIHA.org



# HOSPITALITY HERALD

## Fall 2009

### Executive Board

#### President

Sami Qureshi  
Holiday Inn City Centre

#### Vice President

Frank Pedulla  
Pepper's Cafe

#### Secretary/ Treasurer

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### Honorary Vice President

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Josh Wraight

## Dear HOIHA members,

Time has flown by and here we are in the 4th and final quarter of 2009. This year has been the toughest year I can recall for our industry in specific and for our region in general.

I would like to welcome all the new hotels, restaurants and businesses who have become HOIHA members this year. It was great to meet several of you in last couple of HOIHA meetings.

All the experts indicate that we may be ending a recession and starting a slow and painful recovery process. That may be the case but I believe we as an industry have to be proactive and we must fight back. The leaders in our industry have the obligation and responsibilities to not only themselves become a good sales person but they must turn everyone in their hotels, restaurants and places of business into sharp sales people. Only then we can bring back the business lost over the years and only then will we be able to find new business.

We are in the industry that can be very rewarding but at the same time it could be punishing. We all need to focus on sales and help our sales teams to become more successful. Our game starts with having sales. Some of us may compete with each other for some pieces of businesses but we need to start thinking regionally. One or two successful businesses do not help the economy or the region. All of us have to be successful and work together to create a vibrant and strong regional economy. I have seen businesses succeed even in the toughest of environments because they understood the importance of sales.

As we go through this deep recession and recovery time I would urge the main demand generators in this region to work closely and work diligently to create an environment that is conducive to be successful. The PACVB, Peoria Civic Center, the hospitals, Caterpillar, Chamber of commerce, regional attractions, restaurants and hotels, the civic and political leaders all must come together for a common goal. That common goal is to make Peoria area and the surrounding communities thriving and economically sound.

HOIHA has done its part to stay involved and stay in the forefront in our area. We will continue to do so in more creative and productive ways in years to come. In the end I would like to thank HOIHA members and the board for re-electing me the president for this prestigious organization. I am honored and I look forward to a successful 2010 for our industry.

I wish you all the best in your business and in your personal lives.

Sincerely,

*Sami Qureshi*

Sami Qureshi  
President HOIHA

## Member News

### Barrack's Cater Inn –Hospitality Group

Barrack's Hospitality Group has announced that they have received a ranking on the Inc. Magazine's 500/5000 annual ranking.

Inc. Magazine announced its 28th annual Inc. 500/5000 ranking of the fastest-growing private companies in the United States. With over 27 million businesses registered in the United States, the Inc. 5000 list represents the top-tier businesses in America today. Barrack's Hospitality Group reigned in at no. 104 in the Inc. 500 Food & Beverage category, no. 4314 in the overall Inc. 5000 list.

The Inc. 500/5000 is ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2005 through 2008. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by the first week of 2005, and therefore able to show four full calendar years of sales. Additionally, they have to be U.S. based, privately held, for profit, and independent – not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies. Barrack's growth in the 4-year period was 38.4%.

**For more information, please visit our website: [www.caterinn.com](http://www.caterinn.com).**

### Fairfield Inn & Suites

The Fairfield Inn & Suites is offering a Festival of Lights – Winter Wonderland Package running December 4th – December 31st, 2009. This package includes an overnight stay in a standard king or double queen room, a complimentary hot breakfast buffet and admission to the East Peoria Festival of Lights Winter Wonderland (closed on Christmas Day). Take your own car or van or let our hotel shuttle provide complimentary transportation to and from the park. Arrive back at the hotel and warm up by the fireplace with some complimentary hot chocolate and marshmallows, and take a dip in the indoor pool and hot tub. Rate - \$109 plus tax.

### Heart of Illinois Harvest

Heart of Illinois Harvest is pleased to announce their web site: [hoiharvest.org](http://hoiharvest.org). The Heart of Illinois Harvest is a Food Rescue Program whose volunteers distribute food weekly to five shelters and pantries.

### Holiday Inn City Centre

The Holiday Inn City Centre would like to welcome their new executive housekeeper, Iwa Whittle, to their staff. Iwa comes with years of experience and a high level of energy. They would also like to recognize and thank all of their employee(s) of the months for their hard work and dedication as follows: OC Holbrook and Roberto Lee from Maintenance, Kim Hendrick from Accounting, Curtis Williams from Front Desk, Constance Hogan and Lola Martinez from Laundry, Ciara Brown-Sales Asst., and Aimee Parry from Bannigan's Waitstaff.

The Holiday Inn City Centre is completing another phase of their renovations: The ballroom has been finished recently with new walls, paint, artwork, and chandeliers. The top four floors are replaced with all new furniture along with updating of the bathrooms.

They are in the process of completing all of their public area with new carpet, ceramic tile, furniture, and wallcoverings.

### Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association IHLA StayGreen Programs

In an effort to encourage businesses to "Go Green", the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association has IHLA StayGreen programs available.

**For more information, please visit:**

**[www.stayillinois.com](http://www.stayillinois.com).**

### Petersen Hotels

Petersen Hotels is pleased to announce Jill Crowder as Vice President of Petersen Hotels. Also, Hampton Inn & Suites Peoria at Grand Prairie will be open for business on October 8, 2009. The Hampton Inn & Suites Peoria at Grand Prairie will add 80 new hotel rooms consisting of 39 Double Queen Rooms, 28 King Suites, 11 King Rooms, and 2 Presidential Hospitality Suites to the Peoria Market. Conveniently located next to the Shoppes at Grand Prairie, the new Hampton Inn & Suites will join Wingate by Wyndham, Country Inn & Suites, and Candlewood Suites as the fourth addition to the Hotels at Grand Prairie.

**For more information, please visit our website: [www.petersenhoteles.com](http://www.petersenhoteles.com).**

### Peoria Logo

Peoria Logo is proud to announce the sponsorship of several area events. All of are worthwhile events designed to help area individuals, families, and the central Illinois community as a whole.

Peoria Logo sponsored the "Boogie Bodies" family interactive entertainment at the Heart of Illinois Fair in July of this year. Expo Garden was celebrating its 60th year of hosting the Heart of Illinois Fair. We were also a sponsor of the 12th Annual Lobster Boil held on Saturday, September 19th to benefit the Hult Center for Health Education. And last, but not least, Peoria Logo is proud to be a major sponsor of the Advocates for Access 1st Annual Rollin' on the River Wheel-a-Thon held Saturday, October 10th.

Peoria Logo has continued to grow as the need for quality logo design, graphic design, print and marketing related services has increased in central Illinois. We have been truly blessed, and feel good about being able to give back to the community.

### Greg Wilson, Peoria Logo

### 2009 HOIHA/PACVB

### GOLF OUTING

The 14th Annual HOIHA/PACVB Four-Player Golf Scramble took place on September 3rd at the Coyote Creek Golf Club in Bartonville. On a gorgeous day, 83 golfers came out to support the association and visitors bureau. A wonderful time was had by all who attended!

The Peoria Metro New Car Dealers Association once again signed on as Major Event Sponsor for the seventh year in a row. In addition for the first time we welcomed Excel Decorators as a major event sponsor. Sam's Club showed their support again this year by signing on as a Junior Event Sponsor. Brewer's Distributing generously sponsored the reception beverage and all the signage for the event. Pepsi Americas and Holiday Inn City Centre/Bennigans were also beverage sponsors.


This year we had a total of thirty-one hole sponsors. The promotional signs dotted the greens at Coyote Creek included; Adams Outdoor Advertising, Ameren IL Utilities, Americinn

Lodge & Suites, Barrack's Cater Inn, Best Western/Ashland House, Bob Lindsay Honda, Brewer's Distributing, Centerplate Catering, Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriot, Double A's, EastSide Center, Embassy Suites, Hotels at Grand Prairie, IESA, IHSA, Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association, Jim McComb Chevrolet, McDonald's, Mercedes Restaurants, Methodist Medical Center, Mike Miller Auto Park, Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino, Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria Flag & Decorating, Peoria Rivermen, Pepsi Americas, Ray Dennison Chevrolet, Saturn of Peoria, Waugh Foods, Inc., and Weaver Ridge Golf Club.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Awards Banquet in the beautiful newly completed banquet room in the golf club. The Awards Banquet along with door prizes immediately followed the dinner. Two committee co-chairs, David Rak & Carl Bunker, announced the following award winners. In Third place with a score of 57 was won by the team from Waugh Foods. The Second place team with a score of 56 was won by the Salzer / Jockisch team. First place finishing with a score of 54 was the WeaverRidge Golf Club Team. Congrats to all of the winners! Prizes were also given out for Longest Drive for Men: Kurt Gibson, Longest Putt: Lisa Howard and Closest to the Pin: Ron Rempel.

The Golf Committee would like to thank MaryBeth Milburn and her wonderful staff at Coyote Creek Golf Club. A special thanks to all of the event sponsors, hole sponsors and everyone who donated door prizes and who participated in this year's event. All of you helped to make it a fun & successful fundraiser for the Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association and the Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. Thank you, thank you!!! Please join us for all of the fun next year at the 14th Annual HOIHA/PACVB Four-Player Golf Scramble.



 For a greener world, Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association is emailing invitations and notices to Winterfest 2010. Please forward this communication to your contact list.

Design by:  **bright ideal**  
309.258.9079

## Noteworthy News

### Annual HOIHA Chiefs Outing

On Monday, June 15th Eighty Five HOIHA members were treated to a special discounted price for a Peoria Chiefs baseball game at the beautiful O'Brien Field. Also, we received an added bonus of a double header.

The 1st game was a blow-out! The Peoria Chiefs defeated the Quad Cities Bandits 8-0.

The 2nd game was had more excitement as the Peoria Chiefs pull off a 2nd win of 5-4.

Everyone really enjoyed the fun and excitement at this year's Chiefs game. We will continue to support the Peoria Chiefs next summer.

**GO CHIEFS!**

Be sure to check out the **Heart of Illinois Hospitality** website. Look us up at [www.hoiha.org](http://www.hoiha.org). To submit information to be posted on the site e-mail: [rnbmary1@aol.com](mailto:rnbmary1@aol.com)

### 2009 Peoria City/County Health Department Class Schedule

#### 15-Hour\* Food Service

#### Sanitation Classes - \$80.00

#### Day Classes (8:30am-3:30pm):

November 3, 10, 17

\*(A minimum of 15 hours is required by the Illinois Department of Public Health for certification.)

#### 5-Hour\* Refresher Classes (\$35.00):

#### Night Classes (6:00pm-9:00pm):

November 19, 20

\*(A minimum of 5 hours is required by the Illinois Department of Public Health for renewal of a certification.)

**For further information, please call 679-6161 or stop by the office at 2116 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria. Class sizes are limited due to room occupancy. So, a pre-paid registration guarantees you a seat!!**

Peoria City/County Health Department  
Environmental Health  
2116 N. Sheridan Road  
Peoria, IL 61604  
309/679-6161, [www.pcchd.org](http://www.pcchd.org)

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