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PEOPLE - June 30, 2003

Gov. Rendell reveals new Pa. Travel and Tourism Partnership members

Governor Edward G. Rendell has announced the new members of the Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism Partnership to help guide the state's efforts on tourism plans and policy.

"As one of the predominant industries that already fuels our state's economy, we must place the highest value on travel and tourism in Harrisburg and in communities throughout the Commonwealth," the Governor said. "We must continue to make bold progress by showing people both in this Commonwealth and around the world that Pennsylvania has a world of endless opportunity, history and beauty to offer everybody. I will look to this Partnership for guidance in that mission."

The 34-member public-private Partnership advises the Governor and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on tourism plans and policy. The Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism Partnership was created in 2002, and replaced the Governor's Travel and Tourism Advisory Council. By statute, the Majority and Minority Chairs of the Senate Community and Economic Development Committee and the House Tourism & Recreation Development Committee also are members of the Partnership.

"Nobody, simply nobody, can overestimate the absolute importance that travel and tourism has here in Pennsylvania," DCED Secretary Dennis Yablonsky said. "From Philadelphia to Pittsburgh and Honesdale to Erie, Pennsylvania is the location for so many of the important events that have been instrumental in the growth of our nation. This Partnership will play a key role in how we communicate that message to the world and chart the course of tourism in our state for years to come."

The members of the Partnership are:

· Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), who will serve as Chairman;

· Sheryl Cook, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing & Promotions;

· Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources;

· John Wesley, Interim Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission;

· Rina Cutler, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Administration;

· Gerald Feaser, Director of Communications for the Pennsylvania Game Commission;

· Daniel Tredinnick, Press Secretary for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission;

· Bill Capone, Director of Public Affairs for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission;

· Philip Horn, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts;

· Joe McGrath of Allegheny County, President and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau;

· Betsey Howell of Centre County, Executive Director of the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau;

· Robert Uguccioni of Monroe County, Executive Director of the

Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau;

· Barry Wickes of Dauphin County, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Tourism Lodging Association;

· Joe Hardy of Fayette County, Owner of Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Spa;

· Gregg Confer of Susquehanna County, General Manager of the Elk Mountain Ski Resort;

· Andy Quinn of Allegheny County, Director of Community Relations for Kennywood Park;

· Beverly Gruber of Lehigh County, Executive Secretary of the PA Campground Association;

· Sean Strub of Pike County, member of the Board of Directors of Grey Towers National Historic Landmark & Pinchot Institute;

· Janice Price of Philadelphia County, President of the Kimmel Regional Performing Arts Center;

· Susan Helfrich of Bucks County, Cruise Event Director of Swain World Cruises;

· Ralph A. Saggiomo of Philadelphia County, Managing Director of UBS Financial Services Inc.;

· Kevin Joyce of Allegheny County, President and CEO of The Carlton Restaurant in Pittsburgh;

· Rick Dunston of Philadelphia County, President of Redwood Advisory;

· Patrick Maier of Tioga County, Owner of the Mountain Trail

Horse Center;

· Robert Storey of Chester County, President of Capital Wine and Spirits;

· Allan Sachs of Northampton County, Executive Director of the Delaware/Lehigh National Heritage Corridor;

· Carol Miller of Monroe County, Marketing Professor at East Stroudsburg University;

· Doug Hill of Dauphin County, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association;

· Mary Bomar of Philadelphia County, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park;

· Meryl Levitz of Philadelphia County, CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation.

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