

**For Immediate Release**

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**Count on Leisure for Expert Management**

**Leisure assumes management of Kansas City's premiere convention center**

(LEAWOOD, KS) -- President and CEO, Steve Olson, proudly announced today that Leisure has assumed management of the Kansas City Expo Center, 11730 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, Missouri.

“We are extremely proud to have assumed management of Kansas City’s premiere convention center and look forward to working in concert with the center upon the opening of our attached 21<sup>st</sup> century model Holiday Inn, set to open in the first quarter of 2006. Building and managing the hotel, along with now managing the Expo Center, will allow us to streamline operations, provide coordinated guest service and maximize opportunities for convention center business. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Leisure and speaks to our expertise within the industry.”

Effective January 1, Leisure assumed management of the Expo Center facilities that feature:

- 70,000 square feet of clear span state-of-the-art exhibition hall space with electrical, water, internet, phone and gas hook ups.
- 11,000 square feet of carpeted meeting and banquet space.
- Accommodations for groups from 25 to 5,000.
- Free ground level parking.
- Exclusive in-house providers for food and beverage services, exposition decor, audio visual requirements, security and printing needs.
- 800 + hotel/motel rooms within walking distance, which will increase to almost 1,000 upon the opening of Leisure’s new Holiday Inn.
- Wireless and High speed internet services with fifty (50) plus hubs for computers.
- 24-dedicated phone lines.
- Individual & master heating and cooling temperature control access.
- Bose speakers with FSR control panels.
- Mercury vapor lighting.
- Exhibit hall equipped with water hookups, compressed air & natural gas.
- Multiple perimeter and floor electrical outlets with 110 - 220 (3) phase.

Located just three miles from KCI airport and two blocks from interstate highways I-29 and

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I-435, the Kansas City Expo Center has the following one-stop in-house providers – Heart of America Catering, Image Technology Audio Visual, Owens Business Printing Services, Liberty Exposition Decorator Service, Electrical and Security. The Expo Center offers convenience for today's planners saving them time to focus on increasing their profits.

Continuing to lead the Kansas City Expo Center are long-time employees, Starlette McHale and Robin Dunnam. Ms. McHale has served as CEO of the Expo Center since 2001 and brings 27 years in the hospitality industry focused on sales and management. Robin Dunnam, Convention Center Sales Director, brings 26 years of experience, and both Ms. McHale and Ms. Dunnam have outstanding histories of community involvement.

Increasing hotel space available for Expo Center customers, the new 21<sup>st</sup> century model Holiday Inn being built by Leisure and attached to the center itself, will feature 143 rooms, an indoor pool and hot tub, fitness room and a signature restaurant concept, Kem's Café, named after Holiday Inn founder Kemmons Wilson. Guests will enjoy newly-designed armoires in each guestroom that allow them to see the television from anywhere in the room, an ergonomic work station, data ports, complimentary high speed Internet access, WiFi capabilities and AT&T VoIP phone systems, which will allow guests to conduct conference calls for up to six participants even while using their computer online. Kem's Café will feature a wide array of "comfort food," including the All-American Cheeseburger, apple pie and Kem's meatloaf. In all, guests will delight in the modernized version of the Holiday Inn that towns across American have come to enjoy. The Holiday Inn prototype in Kansas City will also feature 1781 square feet of meeting space capable of seating 254. The hotel's attachment to the KCI Expo Center will make it an especially appealing location for both business and leisure travelers.

Leisure Hotels & Resorts is a third-party management group that operates as a division of Kansas-based Leisure Group of Companies, which specializes in hotel and convention center development, construction management, brokerage services and hotel management in the resort, extended stay and full service markets. Employing more than 800 people, Leisure is one of the industry's fastest growing multi-faceted full service hotel companies in the United States with corporate offices in the Kansas City Metro area and in Hutchinson, Kansas. Using the latest in technological developments, Leisure Hotels & Resorts provides hotels with complete operational and financial services, as well as extensive human resource training and development. Leisure is consistently recognized among the top owners/developers and management companies in the nation by leading industry publications.

Leisure Hotels, LLC manages twenty-four (24) hotels in Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas. It operates a variety of well-known franchise branded hotels from Intercontinental Hotels, Hilton Hotels and US Franchise Systems. Additional Leisure managed properties are set to open in Colorado, Minnesota and Texas this year. For additional information about the Leisure Group of Companies and its services, visit the company's website at [www.leisurehotel.com](http://www.leisurehotel.com) or contact the company directly at 913-905-1460.

