

R.O.S.E. AWARD LUNCHEON HONORS EXCELLENT SERVICE

(May 17, 2007—LaPorte, IN) Many front line service employees and their businesses were honored at the annual Recognition of Service Excellence (R.O.S.E.) Awards Luncheon was held at Hesston Hills Banquet Center in LaPorte Wednesday, May 16. This luncheon is the sixth luncheon that was co-hosted by the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Porter County Convention Recreation and Visitor Commission, honoring those individuals and organizations that contribute to the tourism industry in both LaPorte and Porter Counties.

The R.O.S.E. Award Luncheon coincides with the celebration of National Tourism Week, May 12 through 20, sponsored nationally by the Travel Industry Association (TIA). The Guest speaker for the event was Humorist Walt Stasinski, a member of the National Speakers Association, and president of Potential Unlimited, who spoke on customer service and humor in the workplace.

Not only were R.O.S.E. winners from this past year recognized at the luncheon, but special awards were also presented to special individuals and organizations from both counties. LaPorte County special R.O.S.E. award recipients were Barker Mansion for the Landmark Award, the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum and Web Glass for the Partnership Awards, Anderson's Orchard and Northern Indiana Tourism Development Commission for Unity Awards, Serenity Springs for the Team Effort Award, Dale Cooper of the LaPorte County CVB for the Above and Beyond Award, Larry Eggleston of the Wanatah Historical Society for the Professional Achievement Award, Norm Grieger of the Wanatah Historical Society for the Volunteer of the Year Award, Mark Kolasa of Café Elite for the Unsung Hero Award, Eric Smith of Damon's Grill for the Shining Star Award, and Tom Lootens of Applebee's for the Employee of the Year Award.

The awards are given to show appreciation to front line employees and to encourage them to continue to contribute to the tourism industry.