

Media Contacts: Roberta Cohen 314-570-5020
Alice Handelman 314-567-1212

**Press Club Members Marci Levison Rosenberg and
Verna Green Smith, to be Recognized at the
2008 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT
Awards Luncheon
for their Outstanding Volunteer Contributions**

March, 2008... Two of the ten women leaders to be honored as Women of Achievement this year for their tremendous volunteer accomplishments and good deeds through the region are members of the Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis: **Marci Levison Rosenberg** in the area of Creative Philanthropy and **Verna Green Smith** as Education Advocate. The other eight women to be recognized as 2008 Women of Achievement are: **Susan B. Philpott**, Education Enrichment; **Nancy H. Grove**, Animal Welfare; **Joni Karandjeff**, Community Leadership; **Virginia Kirkpatrick**, Social Enterprise; **Lisa McMullin**, Cultural Enrichment; **Pamela Meanes**, Civic Leadership; **Paula V. Smith**, Social Responsibility; and **Shirley Washington-Cobb**, Youth Dedication.

Since 1955, when this prestigious recognition program was first established, over 530 St. Louis area women, whose volunteer efforts positively impact the well-being and welfare of this community and the lives of those who live here, have received this coveted award and have been honored at an annual luncheon in May. Through the years, these women have come from all walks of life, and have reflected a wide range of interests, careers and ages. Honorees have come from St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, out-state Missouri and Southern Illinois. Women of Achievement have always demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to contributing to the strength, health, cultural landscape and the welfare of the St. Louis area and its inhabitants. This year's honorees share these same admirable attributes. Each year, a committee of community leaders selects the new honorees from numerous nominations and recommendations submitted by friends, family, colleagues and volunteer organizations, who recognize that the St. Louis area is a better place to live because of the volunteer efforts and services of these hardworking women volunteers.

The 53rd Annual Women of Achievement Luncheon will take place on **Tuesday, May 20th**, at the **Ritz Carlton**, in Clayton. The reception and cash bar will open at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon will begin 11:45 a.m. Reservations for the Women of Achievement Award Luncheon are \$60 per person, with seating at tables of 10.

KMOX's **Carol Daniel** will once again serve as Mistress of Ceremonies. The Luncheon Chair is **Dr. Nanci Bobrow** (WOA, 1996) and her Co-Chair is **Bess Wilfong** (WOA, 2004). The St. Louis **Women of Achievement Award** is the oldest, on-going program in the area whose sole mission is to honor and recognize the volunteer efforts of women. It serves both as a thank you to its recipients and as an inspiration to others. Over the past 53 years, the region has benefited immeasurably from the efforts of these extraordinary women. As has been the tradition throughout the more than 50 year history of this award, each 2008 honoree will receive a silver tray engraved with her name and the year in which she received the award.

This prestigious award and the luncheon are made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. Our **Presenting Sponsors are: KMOX 1120; Suburban Journals; and Ladue News.** The Platinum Sponsors are: Neiman Marcus and Lisa Ober, a portrait artist. The Gold Sponsors are: Centene Corporation; Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation; The Gatesworth at One McKnight Place; Heartland Bank; the Ritz-Carlton Hotel; Tricobraun-A Division of Kranson Industries, Inc; and Wachovia Securities. The Silver Sponsors are: BBJ Linen; Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar; Picture Mart and the St. Louis Rams.

In 1993, the **St. Louis Women of Achievement Organization** was established as an independent, non-profit entity. Its board of directors, comprised of past recipients of this award, assumed all the responsibilities for planning and implementing the nomination, selection and awards processes. This was done to ensure that the **Women of Achievement Award** would continue to recognize and honor outstanding women volunteers, in the St. Louis region, for many years to come.

According to **Glenn Sheffield (WOA, 1997), President of the Board of Directors of the Women of Achievement organization**, "The past, present and future recipients of the **Women of Achievement Award** reflect the best and brightest volunteers that this community can produce. These women have and will continue to serve as role models for those who follow in their footsteps."

Once again, St. Louis based artist, Lisa Ober, who specializes in traditional pastel and oil portraiture, will create pastel portraits in honor of each of the ten new Women of Achievement. Ms. Ober will be working in soft pastels, on specially prepared hardboard coated with marble dust which provides a wonderful surface for pastels and a sturdy ground to assure the longevity of the work. The individual portraits will be beautifully matted and framed by Picture Mart and displayed at this year's luncheon. They will be presented to each of the 2008 honorees, for their private collections, as permanent mementos of this special occasion.

For reservations for the 2008 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon **please contact Jenny Besser at 314-584-6011** Please send your name and check to: Women of Achievement Luncheon c/o MAC Meetings and Events, 801 North Second Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. **The deadline for reservations is May 13th.** Reservations cannot be accepted after that date. For more information, please visit www.stlwomenofachievement.org.

###