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Contact: Jacque Pregont
President
Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce
913-367-2427
800-234-1854
president@atchisonkansas.net

SEABERG TO BE INDUCTED INTO CHAMBER HALL OF FAME

Community leader has left rich legacy in Atchison and beyond

ATCHISON, Kan. (Jan. 6, 2009) — Local community leader and MGP Ingredients board chairman Ladd Seaberg will be joining a select group of distinguished honorees this month when he is inducted into the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will occur in conjunction with the Chamber's 90th Annual Membership Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Atchison Heritage Conference Center. The event begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentation of various other Chamber awards, dinner and the formal Hall of Fame program, at which U.S. Senator Sam Brownback will be among those presenting testimonials.



“We are excited to welcome Ladd into a truly elite group of individuals who have contributed to Atchison’s success through the years,” said Chamber president Jacque Pregont. “His endless gifts of time and talent have done more to help the city prosper than we could ever imagine. Ladd has given so much of himself. It is a privilege to celebrate his many contributions and welcome him into the Hall of Fame.”

The Chamber’s Hall of Fame was established to recognize individuals who have generously contributed their time, service and philanthropic support to enhance the economic well being of the Atchison area. Members of this prestigious group

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demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, visionary excellence and unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for all citizens through a variety of progressive programs and initiatives.

Seaberg is the seventh individual to be selected for inclusion in the Hall of Fame since the award's inception in 1982. Past honorees include Bill Muchnic, 1982; John H. Mize Sr., 1984; Cloud L. "Bud" Cray, 1992; Dick Bruggen, 1999; Bob Berger, 2002; and John H. Mize Jr., 2008.

"I feel both privileged and truly humbled to receive this recognition," Seaberg said. "Others who have previously been inducted into the Hall of Fame have been highly deserving of this acknowledgement. To be included among this unique group of community-minded individuals is an honor for which I am most grateful."

Seaberg has been chairman of the board of directors of MGP Ingredients, Inc., since October, 2006. He previously served for 26 years as president of the company and chief executive officer of the company for 20 years. Seaberg joined MGP Ingredients in 1969 and rose from distillery production manager to vice president and manager of the company's starch division in 1970. He was made vice president and plant manager in 1972, and served as general manager for one year prior to being named president in 1980.

Seaberg was a founding member of the International Wheat Gluten Association and is a past president of IWGA. He is currently president of the U.S. Wheat Gluten Industry Council. He is a member of the USDA Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for grains, feeds and oilseeds, representing the U.S. grain community at World Trade Organization meetings; the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; the Water Pollution Control Federation; and the Technical Committee of the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.

In addition, Seaberg is a board member of Exchange National Bank and Trust Company, Atchison, as well as Commerce Bank of Kansas City. He has served on the boards of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is a member of Kansas Inc., and served on numerous other state committees for former Governor Bill Graves. He also served as a board member of the former Atchison Leather Products Company. Seaberg was one of the original founders of the Atchison Area Economic Development Council and was its chair until this year. He is also a member and past chair of the Atchison Santa Fe Depot Board of Trustees; a member of the board of directors of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Atchison, and the board of directors of the Atchison County Historical Society; a past member of the Young Presidents' Organization; and past president and chairman of the board for the Kansas City Presidents' Organization. He also is a former member and past chairman of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors; past president of Atchison Kiwanis; former general chairman and special gifts chairman of the Atchison Chapter of the American Cancer Society; past state vice president of the Kansas Jaycees; and a lifetime member of the USJCI Senate.

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“I extend sincere congratulations to Mr. Seaberg on behalf of the US Junior Chamber, the Kansas Junior Chamber, Junior Chamber International, the KSJCI Senate and the US JCI Senate,” said Doug Anspaugh, 76th president of the Kansas Jaycees USJCI Senate No. 66094. “We thank Mr. Seaberg for his contributions while serving as a member of our organizations. We are proud to be a part of his past accomplishments and wish him the best of fortune in the years ahead.”

Seaberg was also a charter member of the original Amelia Earhart Bridge committee that initiated interest in rebuilding or replacing the Missouri River bridge in Atchison; and spearheaded the funding and purchase of land and a walking bridge at the Independence Creek Lewis and Clark Historical Site. He also played an integral part in the funding and building of the Kanza Earth Lodge and the placing of a national geodetic survey marker at the site in honor of Frank Fogler.

“This is an honor well deserved for all that Ladd has done actively and philanthropically to support this community,” said Randy Schrick, vice president of manufacturing and engineering and former board member for MGPI. “Very early on, he made it clear that the culture of MGPI included being involved in the community in some capacity. He encouraged this philosophy and displayed it through his actions. I worked directly for Ladd for over 35 years. His quiet, but accountable management style was instrumental in my personal growth at MGPI. He is one of the sharpest engineers I’ve ever worked with, and I deeply appreciated his patience in tutoring me through the years. As stated above he taught me through words and his actions, that community involvement is an essential part of the culture of MGPI. He has stated that people are our most important asset and we must do what we can to promote their growth and happiness at work and do the same for the communities in which we live. It has definitely been a privilege to work for Ladd, and my family and I want to thank him for giving this farm boy the opportunity to raise a family in several great communities, be involved in the town, schools, and churches in those communities, and working with good people.”

Longtime MGPI board member Mike Braude stated, “Ladd Seaberg has not only been key to the growth of MGP Ingredients, but also has played an instrumental role in many of the great things that have occurred in the Atchison community over these past many years.”

Braude and Schrick are among those who will present testimonials during the Hall of Fame induction program. Others include Cray, Brownback and Rich Dickason, chief executive officer of The Exchange National Bank and Trust Company of Atchison.

“Over the past 33 years Ladd has played an important roll in the success of Exchange National Bank and Trust,” Dickason said. “Part of this success came when Ladd introduced us to the strategic business unit model utilized by MGPI. The bank is very fortunate to have Ladd serve on our board and be a part of the bank’s success as

Northeast Kansas' largest banking institution that has been voted best bank four years in a row." Dickason went on to say that he continues to appreciate Seaberg's ongoing service to the bank after so many years.

A native of Beaumont, Texas, Seaberg earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Texas Tech University in 1969. Seaberg and his wife, Karen, are the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Roy (Lori) Mingus, of Lawrence, and Mrs. Kyle (Melissa) Huntington, of Kansas City, Kan. They have six grandchildren.

The mission of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce is to focus on the quality of life, attraction, growth and retention of jobs and businesses in Atchison County. Established in 1919, the Chamber continues to be the leading business organization of the community. With the support of over 400 member investors, the Chamber delivers programs and services that make our community a better place to live, work, raise a family and visit.

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For more information about the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, the City of Atchison or the Chamber's work, or to schedule an interview or photo opportunity, please call Jacque Pregont at 913-367-2427 or 800-234-1854, or e-mail Jacque at president@atchisonkansas.net.