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AK-SAR-BEN ENHANCES CORONATION BALL TRADITION

August 1, 2008 – Omaha, Nebr. – The 112th Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball scheduled for October 11, 2008 at the Qwest Center will include new enhancements that will ensure its longevity into the next century.

Attendance at the 111th Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation and Ball, on October 13, 2007, set a new record for the black-tie event with proceeds that benefit the Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Fund. In 2007 more than \$600,000 was raised to support of the educational endeavors of selected recipients of the Ak-Sar-Ben Horatio Alger Scholarship.

“In an effort to remain relevant, Ak-Sar-Ben annually reviews all aspects of the scholarship program and the Coronation Ball event,” said Richard R. Bell, Chairman of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and Chairman and CEO of HDR, Inc., “With volunteer input changes to the scholarship program include moving from providing \$2,500 scholarships to 100 youth to providing \$5,000 to 50 youth and adding a mentoring program.”

During the annual review process current event leadership, former monarchs and involved parties were consulted prior to the development of modifications that will be unveiled during the 112th Coronation and Ball in October.

“This year’s Coronation and Ball will include changes that strengthen the tradition in today’s culture.” said Chris J. Murphy, Chairman of the Coronation Ball Committee and Chairman and CEO of First Westroads Bank.

Members of the 112th Court of Quivira have been announced and tickets or reservations for the Coronation and Ball are available now. For more information or to receive an invitation, please visit www.aksarben.org or call 402.554.9600, x106.

The Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball has a mission of promoting, recognizing and celebrating volunteerism, philanthropy and community pride. More than \$3 million in scholarship funding has been raised from Coronation Ball proceeds.