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2009 Ak-Sar-Ben Ball Committees Organize

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The 2009 Ak-Sar-Ben **Women's Ball Committee Kick-Off Luncheon** was held on Thursday, January 8th at Happy Hollow Club. Six new members were introduced and six retiring members of the WBC were bid farewell. The luncheon marked the beginning of planning for the **113th** Coronation Ball, which will be held on October 10, 2009 at the Qwest Center Omaha.

Bill Cutler, chairman of the Coronation Ball Committee, announced the members of his committee. They are Chris Murphy, Advisor, Mary Johnson, chairman of the Women's Ball Committee and Ann Hergenrader, past chairman and advisor to the Women's Ball Committee.

Mr. Jeffrey Taxman, coronation prime minister, announced the six new members of the Women's Ball Committee. They are Jill Bydalek, Mary de Souza, Gina Greder, Mary Jo Langdon, Marietta Luellen and Kyle Robino. Each new member was presented with a gold crown pin and a red rose.

Honored for their service were retiring members including Joni Lindquist, chairman of the 2007 Women's Ball Committee, who completed four years of service and Cathi Arnold, Laura Doll, Ann Hofmann, Darlene Mueller and Vicki Wampler.

Ann Hergenrader, past chairman and advisor to the Women's Ball Committee, provided an overview of the 112th Coronation Ball. The committee accomplished its objective by recognizing over 200 families for their community service and by providing a venue to raise funds to support the Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Program.

Through the efforts of the Coronation Ball Committee and with generous communitywide support, \$645,000 was contributed to the Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Program and 358 Heartland Scholars will attend universities and colleges in the 2008-09 school year. The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben are proud of these results which fulfill their mission to build a better Heartland for all.

Johnson announced the following committee assignments: Mimi Gleason, Princess Chairman and Flowers Chairman; Shelley Homa, Heartland Princess Chairman and Coronation Week/Transportation Chairman; Stephanie Horeis, Heartland Escort Chairman and Ak-Sar-Ben Friends Liaison; Lori Pirnie, Court of Honor Chairman, Royal Court Luncheon Chairman and Treasurer; Lori Sullivan, Escort Chairman and Coronation Week/Hotel Chairman.

Ann Blunk, Production Chairman; Jeannie Dudzinski, Royal Court Welcome Chairman and Scholarship Chairman; Patti Pryor, Royal Court Brunch Chairman, Gifts/Courtesy and Tribute Card Chairman and Yearbook Chairman; Heather Russell, Site Chairman, Social Chairman and Royal Court Welcome Assistant; Amy Schmid, Page Chairman and Social Assistant; Kelley Stuckey, Royal Court Supper Chairman, Floor Committee Chairman, and Entertainment Chairman.

Jill Bydalek, Reservation Chairman, Files and Lists Chairman, Royal Court Brunch Assistant; Mary de Souza, Photography/Publicity Chairman, Scholarship Assistant, Page Luncheon Assistant; Gina Greder, Standard Bearer Chairman, Program Chairman, Page Assistant; Mary Jo Langdon, Invitations Chairman, Community Support/Endowment Chairman, Production Assistant Inventory; Marietta Luellen, Royal Court Supper Assistant, Scrapbook Chairman, Ticket Chairman; Kyle Robino, Page Luncheon Chairman, Production Assistant Scenario.