



Gateway Labor Management Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE 2007 WEIER AWARD
TO CONOCOPHILLIPS AND THE MANY UNIONS REPRESENTED
WITHIN ITS WOOD RIVER REFINERY**

EDWARDSVILLE, ILL., September 21, 2007 . . . The Labor Management Committee yesterday presented ConocoPhillips and the many unions represented within its Wood River Refinery with the 2007 Weier Award during a lunchtime ceremony held in conjunction with the Gateway Labor Management Conference. The parties were recognized for their steadfast commitment to fostering positive labor management relationships.

“The ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery works with multiple building trades and contracting companies to support operations at the refinery,” sated Rick Schwarz, Maintenance & Reliability Manager for ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery. “This entire team was recognized for establishing a Tripartite relationship between the three entities, where a cooperative environment and communication process has been created and individual interests are set aside and decisions are made in the spirit of the Tripartite goals.”

Specifically, the Labor Management Committee saluted the labor and management representatives for the formation of the Tripartite committee composed of owners, representatives of contracting companies and representatives of the building trades and their ability to work together to improve safety, quality, efficiency and the cost-effectiveness of the work performed at the refinery in an effort to grow the refinery and ensure long-term employment in safe and good-paying jobs. They were also recognized for the establishment of a positive labor management climate that has resulted in the refinery securing a seven-year agreement with in-plant unions, which more than doubles the traditional length of time for such contracts, and for completing 2.6 million man hours without lost time due to on-the-job injuries.

“Labor and management’s ability to create and maintain a working relationship is crucial to the success of any company and organization,” stated Marv Finkelstein, executive director of the Labor Management Committee Southwestern Illinois. “We commend the collaboration taking place at ConocoPhillips Wood

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River Refinery and hope this honor helps to not only spotlight the workable solutions and initiatives taking place within, but also encourage others to learn from the refinery's successes."

The Weier Award is an honor given by the Labor Management Committee Southwestern Illinois designed to recognize the various ways organizations and unions in our region are striving to further improve their working relationships. It was introduced in honor of the illustrious Bill Weier for his dedication to labor and management relations. He served the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for nearly 20 years mediating 1,000+ cases, taught at Belleville Area Community College, assisted the executive director of the Labor Management Committee and made a distinct difference in the labor-management arena before passing away in July 1997. Previous Weier Award honorees include The Radisson Hotel and Unite Here Local 74, IBEW Local 1 and Painters District Council Local 1; Belleville Public School District #118 and the Belleville Grade School Teachers Local 673 and Service Employees International Union Local 116; and Roesch, Inc. and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Lodge S16.

To learn more about the Labor Management Committee and the Weier Award call Marv Finkelstein at (618) 650-2681 or visit the newly-redesigned committee website at www.gatewaylabormanagement.org.

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