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ONE YEAR COUNTDOWN TO 2009 U.S. SENIOR OPEN

Carmel, IN (July 30, 2008) – One-year out from the 30th U.S. Senior Open Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, championship organizers are setting a record pace. Corporate sales are so strong that additional venues have been added to the site. Also, volunteer registration and ticket sales have been very successful.

The local business community has embraced the championship and the various hospitality packages available. "To date, we have sold 90% of our corporate hospitality a year in advance of the championship," said General Co-Chairman, Tom Buck. "In fact, we have already surpassed the 2008 U.S. Senior Open which is taking place this week," Buck added.

With the high demand, the U.S. Senior Open plans to build additional villas (climate-controlled tents) and provide more clubhouse access, to ensure the need of every prospective company is met. Many of Indiana's top businesses have signed on as supporters, including Clarian Health Partners, Duke Realty, Browning Investments, Eli Lilly and Company, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Baker & Daniels, Brightpoint, the Indianapolis Colts, The Kroger Co., and many others.

"As the exclusive retail ticket outlet for the 2009 U.S. Senior Open Championship, Kroger is extremely pleased with ticket sales at our grocery stores in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio. We encourage golf fans to buy their tickets early and Kroger is proud to support the communities we serve by participating in this special event," said Bob Moeder, President of the Kroger Central Division.

Volunteer recruitment is well under way. A team of 3,000 volunteers is needed to assist with a variety of duties ranging from gallery control to player transportation during the championship. Since mid-April, more than 1,100 volunteers from 28 states have registered. Interested volunteers should sign-up immediately as committees are filling quickly.

Tickets went on sale in May and have been very strong to date. Two different advanced ticket packages are being offered. The Championship weekly ticket costs \$100 and provides admission to the grounds for the three practice rounds and four Championship rounds, complimentary parking and a commemorative Championship Program. The Pete Dye Club – upgraded weekly ticket costs \$200 and includes all the privileges of the weekly ticket plus access to the exclusive Pete Dye Club pavilion overlooking the 17th hole at Crooked Stick Golf Club. The pavilion offers a climate-controlled atmosphere with TV's, scoring terminals, and upscale food and beverage options for purchase. Tickets can be purchased at all Indiana Kroger, Pay Less, and Owen's stores, by calling 877-281-OPEN, or on-line at www.2009ussenioropen.com.

For more information on the 2009 U.S. Senior Open, please visit www.2009usseniorsopen.com, call 317-571-USGA (8742), or email info@2009ussenioropen.com.

About the U.S. Senior Open:

The 30th U.S. Senior Open to be held July 27 – August 2, 2009, will bring a field of 156 of the world's best professional and amateur Senior (over the age of 50) golfers to Crooked Stick Golf Club. Featured players expected to compete include: Greg Norman, Tom Watson, Nick Faldo, Fuzzy Zoeller and Mark O'Meara. The U.S. Senior Open will be the sixth USGA championship staged at Crooked Stick; past championships include the 2007 U.S. Women's Amateur, 1993 U.S. Women's Open, 1989 Mid-Amateur, 1983 Senior Amateur and 1982 Junior Amateur. NBC and ESPN will provide more than 16 hours of television coverage of all four rounds of the championship.

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