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Press Release

Lake Norman Realty President Abigail Jennings Awarded 2007 MSI Chamber Business Person of the Year

Abigail Jennings, president of Lake Norman Realty, was awarded the 2007 Business Person of the Year award at the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon on January 29, 2008. This award is given to the nominated recipient doing business in the Mooresville-South Iredell area in recognition of their outstanding achievement in their chosen field.

As a Lake Norman native, Abigail Jennings has observed first-hand the remarkable evolution of the Lake Norman real estate market. She joined Lake Norman Realty, Inc. in 1990 and began learning from the ground up the business founded by her father, James Jennings. In 1993 she formed Lake Norman Realty's Relocation Department, which grew considerably under her supervision and now contributes substantially to the company's total sales volume. In 1998 Abigail became president of Lake Norman Realty, and under her leadership the company has more than doubled its sales volume and opened two new offices to better serve the entire region.

Abigail is a recipient of the distinguished CRB (Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager) and CRP (Certified Relocation Professional) designations. In 2005, she was named one of the "Most Influential Women in the Golden Crescent" by Business Today, and in 2002, she was honored as one of Charlotte's "40 Under 40" by the Charlotte Business Journal. Over the past few years at Lake Norman Realty, Abigail has implemented "one-stop, in-house" services to streamline the home-buying process. The firm now offers clients mortgage and insurance products under the same roof as its full line of residential, commercial, relocation, and rental real estate services.

2007 has been an exciting year for Abigail and Lake Norman Realty. Her latest initiative has been the growth of the company's commercial division. This year she expanded the department by over ten associates, propelling Lake Norman Realty Commercial into a prominent role in the regional commercial market. In 2007 Lake Norman Realty was honored as a finalist in the Charlotte Business Journal's "Best Places to Work" contest. Lake Norman Realty was the highest-ranking company from the Lake Norman area and placed fourth in the Mid-Sized Business category for the Charlotte-metro region out of over 250 entries. In September, Abigail was a speaker at the *Leading Real Estate Companies of the World*

**For Release 9 a.m.
February 20, 2008**

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(formerly RELO) regional meeting in Charlotte, where she addressed brokers and owners of real estate companies in a session focusing on growth and overcoming challenges in today's real estate market. The October/November issue of *Real Estate Business* featured an article by Abigail entitled "In Her Own Words: A CRB Designee Knows Life Is More Than Work". And in the August 2007 issue of *Lake Norman Woman*, Abigail was the subject of the cover story, "Real Estate's Renaissance Woman". And last but certainly not least, in 2007 Abigail became an Incorporating Director for BlueHarbor Bank, a new community bank forming to serve the Lake Norman region.

The impact of Abigail's leadership is felt not only within the real estate industry, but in her community as well. In 2007, she served her second term as Vice-President of Economic Development for the MSI (Mooresville South-Iredell) Chamber. She is also a board member and past president of the Town of Cornelius Historic Preservation Commission. Furthermore, Abigail is founder and president of the Lake Norman Lucky Cat Program, a non-profit organization dedicated to humanely managing the population of feral cats in the Lake Norman area through TNR (trap-neuter-return). In 2008 she will serve as Vice-President of the non-profit economic development organization, SICDC (South Iredell County Development Corporation) and Chairman of the Motorsports Taskforce Committee for the Mooresville South-Iredell Chamber.

Her previous community involvement has included: Board Member for Junior Achievement of Iredell County, member of the MSI Gateway Enhancement and Preservation of Lake Norman Committees, and charter member of the Top-of-the-Lake Rotary Club in Mooresville. In addition, she has served as past Chairman of the MSI Chamber's Economic Development Fundraising Campaign, Chairman of the Town of Cornelius' Steering Committee for the North Mecklenburg Cultural Study for the Arts and Sciences Council, Vice-President of Public Affairs for the MSI Chamber, a Leading Lady for the Charlotte Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Chairman of the Mooresville-South Iredell United Way Professional Division, alumnus of the Mooresville South-Iredell Leadership program, Board Member for Keep Iredell Clean/Keep America Beautiful, executive officer of the Lake Norman Homebuilders Association, and Board Member for the Iredell Community Concert Association. From 2004 –2006 Abigail published "Lucky Friends", a monthly magazine with a circulation of 10,000 copies providing free exposure for local rescue groups' animals for adoption, with feature articles and a service directory for pet owners.

Abigail graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Creative Arts degree. She and her husband, Randolph Lewis, are currently restoring the old Mt. Zion Methodist Church Parsonage, a local historic landmark in downtown Cornelius where they reside with their daughter Genevieve and ten cats. In her rare leisure moments, Abigail enjoys painting, gardening and reading.

Lake Norman Realty, Inc. has been an industry pioneer since 1978. 2008 marks their 30th year of excellence serving the Lake Norman community, with offices in Mooresville, Cornelius, Denver, and Statesville. With a customer satisfaction rating of 99%, the firm offers a full spectrum of residential, rental, property management, commercial, and relocation services; as well as in-house mortgage, homeowners and title insurance companies. For a showcase of the vast selection of homes, land, commercial property and rentals available, visit them on the web at www.LakeNormanRealty.com.

Photo:

H. Mike Cook (2007 MSI Chamber Chairman), Rick Howard (2006 Award Recipient), Abigail Jennings, Karen Shore (MSI Chamber President).