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ACOM FOUNDER, WILLIAM H. JUST, REMEMBERED AS A LEADER IN THE CONVENTION SERVICES COMMUNITY

PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – December 22, 2008 – The Board of Directors of the Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM), an organization dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, remembered William H. Just for the work he did to raise awareness for convention service professionals and their importance to the meetings industry. The following is a statement issued by the organization:

“ACOM is deeply saddened by the loss of our founder, Bill Just. ACOM will never forget Bill’s upbeat spirit and innovative leadership, without which, this organization would not be the success it is today. Even before founding ACOM in 1988, Bill was one of the biggest supporters of convention services professionals and he continued to elevate the industry to new heights through his work with the Certified Meeting Planner (CMP) program and other significant accomplishments throughout his impressive career. He gave the convention service manager a face, a voice, and the opportunity for educational advancement,” said Tina Stark, President of ACOM.

Just founded and incorporated ACOM as a 501(c) (6) not-for-profit organization in February/March 1988. He decided to do this due to the lack of a professional society for convention services managers (CSMs)— the professionals at hotels, convention centers and convention/visitor bureaus who work with association and corporate meeting planners to produce conventions, meetings, trade shows and public events.

Throughout the years, it was through Just’s determination that several important ACOM initiatives were developed, such as the annual conference co-located with PCMA, and the first summer educational offering to support the intrinsic needs of members and nonmember CSMs who could not attend the January offering. He also

initiated the first ACOM strategic planning initiative, having facilitated such functions for PCMA in the past and foreseen the significance of such an activity to keep an organization healthy and focused upon the needs of its members.

For more information about ACOM, contact Lynn McCullough at (609) 799-3712 or e-mail info@acomonline.org.

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About ACOM

The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008 and is dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, and to preparing Convention Service Management professionals for their critical role in the growth and success of their organizations. ACOM members hold many positions in convention and visitor bureaus, convention centers, conference centers, hotels and resorts including: convention service managers, housing managers, operations managers, event service coordinators, directors of convention/trade shows, catering managers and directors, facility managers, attraction/entertainment facilities, audio visual companies and decorator management companies. For more information, visit www.acomonline.org.