



CONTACT: Jaime Perry — (717) 796-0811

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mechanicsburg Chamber will host Tom Burgoyne – ‘Best Friend’ of the Phillie Phanatic – at Annual Dinner on Wednesday

Mechanicsburg, PA — January 16, 2015 — The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce will be welcoming the “best friend” of the Phillie Phanatic, Tom Burgoyne, at their Annual Dinner and General Membership meeting on Wednesday evening, January 21. The event, which is open to the public, brings members of the chamber and community together to enjoy dinner, drinks, entertainment and a chance to win door prizes.

Burgoyne, this year’s keynote speaker, has been performing as the Philadelphia Phillies’ Phillie Phanatic for 27 years. A St. Joseph’s Prep and Drexel University graduate, Tom first donned the Phanatic costume in 1989 after answering an anonymous want-ad in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Burgoyne has been a successful speaker for over 20 years, entertaining audiences with stories about his “friend” the Phanatic, and motivating and encouraging his audiences to reach for the stars and find YOUR Phanatic.

In addition to the keynote presentation, the event is also a time to celebrate the Chamber’s efforts and growth and to look ahead as new leadership takes its place. The event will include recognition of the incoming 2015 Board President, James Hockenberry, as well as the confirmation of three applicants to the Board of Directors: Jacqueline Hower - Zimmerman’s Automotive Services, Mary Heimbuch - Members 1st Federal Credit Union, and Wanda Wert - PNC Bank. Each director will serve a four year term.

During the event, the Chamber’s 2015 Charity of Choice will be named and the 2014 Charity of Choice, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region, will be recognized.

This event will be held at The Mechanicsburg Club at 333 Heinz Street in Mechanicsburg from 6-9pm. The cost to attend is \$30. Please contact the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce to RSVP at (717) 796-0811 or info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.



Tom Burgoyne

About Tom Burgoyne

Tom Burgoyne has been performing as the Phillie Phanatic for twenty-seven years. A St. Joseph's Prep and Drexel University graduate, Tom first donned the Phanatic costume in 1989 after answering an anonymous want-ad in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Tom, a certifiable sports nut, won over a panel of judges with his audition in the Phanatic costume, in addition to showing the judges his collection of newspaper clippings showing him on top of statues during Phillies and 76ers victory parades and at other sporting events throughout Philadelphia.

Working as a backup to David Raymond (the first Phanatic performer) for five years, Tom handled many of the Phanatic's promotional appearances until the 1994 season when he took over all game day duties. Since then, Tom has travelled across the country and around the world bringing the Phanatic's special brand of humor to sports fans everywhere. His international travels have taken him to Japan, Europe, Australia, South America, Mexico and Canada.

He has co-authored two books, *More Than Beards, Bellies and Biceps – The Story of the 1993 Philadelphia Phillies (and the Phillie Phanatic, Too)* (Sports Publishing, Inc.) and *Movin' On Up* (Middle Atlantic Press). He also has written a series of children's books, chronicling the adventures of the Phillie Phanatic and started a reading and literacy program in the Philadelphia area called "Be A Phanatic About Reading". He has written and directed three children's videos, *Channel Surfin' Phanatic*, *The Phillie Phanatic Goes Hollywood* and *Time Travelin' Phanatic*.

The Phillie Phanatic has been widely acclaimed over the years as one of sports best mascots. In 2009 and 2011, Forbes Magazine named the Phanatic the best mascot in the country. In 2002, the Phillie Phanatic was "enshrined" in baseball's Hall of Fame and is currently part of a permanent exhibit in Cooperstown.

Tom has been a familiar face on the local and national interviewing circuit appearing frequently on TV and radio programs as the "Best Friend of the Phanatic". He has been a successful speaker in the Delaware Valley for over twenty years, entertaining audiences with stories about his "friend" the Phanatic, and motivating and encouraging his audiences to Find YOUR Phanatic and reach for the stars.

About Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce

The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce supports a variety of community, business and economic development programs throughout the year. It has over 400 business and residential members throughout South Central Pennsylvania; and focuses on the Mechanicsburg Borough, Hampden, Lower Allen, Monroe, Silver Spring and Upper Allen Townships.

###