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Page 1 of 2

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Photos attached ... captions follow release

KBA USERS GROUP COMES OF AGE IN KANSAS CITY

Experience is a great teacher, which is why the KBA Users Group is enjoying dramatic growth.

The organization gives its members – users of KBA single-width and double-width web presses, including the Continent, Comet, Colora, Commander and Prisma – a forum for sharing information essential to operational optimization.

Member attendance at this year's annual meeting, hosted October 15-17 by the Kansas City Star, was double that of a year ago and vendor representation tripled.

"The turnout exceeded our expectations," said Tom Letto, press operations manager at the Louisville Courier Journal and the organization's president. "The members understand this is a good way for all of us to communicate; to share experiences and solutions to production issues that are common to many of us."

Equally important, Letto said, "is the opportunity to maintain our partnership with KBA. When you make the kind of investment we've made in KBA technology, it's like a marriage. In order to maintain that marriage, it helps to have to have a forum like this for effective communication."

It also helps, Letto added, that KBA is the organization's most enthusiastic supporter.

The KBA Users Group has existed informally for several years. But over the past 12 months, it was formally chartered, with bylaws, a board of officers, and a website, www.kbausersgroup.com.

In addition to Letto, officers include Vice President Randy Waters, vice president production at the Kansas City Star, and Treasurer Gary Hall, production operations manager at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The program kicked off with a Monday night reception dinner at Harrah's, North Kansas City. Tuesday, attendees received a warm welcome and an uplifting state-of-the-industry address by Mac Tully, publisher of the Kansas City Star. Subsequent events included maintenance and parts discussions, new product and technology showcases, a forum with KBA representatives from KBA North America and Germany, and a tour of the Kansas City Star's four impressive new KBA Commander presslines.

"It was a great turnout, the information was valuable and everyone worked well together in an effort to improve production," said Letto.

The group voted to schedule its 2008 meeting in Hilton Head, SC, with The Island Packet hosting. Details will follow as they are finalized.

KBA North America is a member of the KBA Group, a leading supplier of sheetfed, newspaper and commercial web, and digital offset presses. KBA is dedicated to excellence in printing technology. The company's greatest satisfaction comes from helping its customers succeed by building presses that enable their businesses to prosper. From engineering through production, the company focus is on people, providing flexible technology, customized printing solutions, and personal service to help its partners differentiate themselves and be successful today and in the future.

*For additional information regarding this release, contact **Gary Owen**, vice president, newspaper sales and communications— regional, at 717.891.9064 or e-mail gowen@kba-usa.com. Information can also be obtained at the company's Web site, www.kba-usa.com.*

CAPTION PHOTO 1

Mac Tully, publisher of the Kansas City Star, kicks off the KBA Users Group meeting with an address to attendees.

CAPTION PHOTO 2

A packed room at the KBA Users Group meeting listens attentively to one of the agenda's numerous presentations.