



# MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

## Mount Angel Garners Ovation Awards

**Seaside, Oregon.** At the annual Northwest Festivals and Events Conference in Seaside, Mount Angel Oktoberfest received the Oregon Festivals and Events Association Ovation Award for *Best Cultural or Heritage Event* celebrated in Oregon during 2009. Scott Ingals, the groups awards Chairperson stated "Many communities throughout Oregon celebrate their heritage and culture with festivals and events. Lasting only four days, Oktoberfest draws nearly 350,000 guests. The event influences the landscape, marketing and community infrastructure." Visitors are delighted by Mount Angel's authentic German Heritage that unfolds before them as they stroll through the festival encountering the happy sounds and ambiance of a traditional Bavarian folk festival. This all volunteer festival has raising money for local and regional charities and non-profits for 45 years.



Mount Angel's "Mr. Oktoberfest", retired Army Colonel Jerry Lauzon, is the 2009 recipient of the annual *Oregon Volunteer of the Year Ovation Award*.

Scott Ingals, Ovation committee chair, described Lauzon as "A 20 year Mount Angel resident who has worked tirelessly for his adopted home town without pay not only for Oktoberfest, but the entire community."

Ingals cited numerous organizations the honoree has worked for and promoted: among them St. Mary Parish Church (as Sacristan), founding member of Mount Angel Community Foundation, most especially its Scholarship Endowment, the Wm. Annen Foundation, Mount Angel City Councilor for 8 years, Mount Angel Chamber of Commerce doing their PR and tourism correspondence, American Legion, Angel

Trekkers, Lions Club, the schools' Fine Arts Mini Experience (was called their "Biggest Star"), and myriad other projects and fundraising activities. He is frequently called on to take school and tour groups on visits to St. Mary Parish Church, one of his favorite volunteer efforts. He often is asked to speak on subjects relating to Mount Angel's German Bavarian heritage, or how to make festivals successful.

The deeply touched recipient, dressed in his signature Bavarian attire, was obviously surprised as the conference attendees arose as one to give Jerry Lauzon a "standing" Ovation, which for him, was an award to be remembered.

Wurstfest, a celebration of German sausage was presented for the first time in 2009. A partnership between Oktoberfest and the Chamber of Commerce, Wurstfest is Mount Angel's answer to Mardi Gras and the last great "blast" of winter. It was an immediate success and drew well over 3,000 guests. Volunteer organizations and the local business community, doing what they do so well raised funds for the participating organizations. The chamber earned \$13,000.00 for flower baskets, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and community beautification. This family event is already well known for its great food and libations, music and dance with lots merriment for all ages. Wurstfest is Oregon's *Best New Festival or Event for 2009*.

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Photograph, John Gooley, President Mount Angel Oktoberfest accepts the Heritage Award from Steve Clark, Oregon Festivals and Events Association President. OFEA Staff Photo.

Assisting members in achieving the goals of their respective events by providing opportunities for education, promotion, networking and leadership development so as to enhance the quality of life within the community and promote a better understanding of the contribution of Special Events within the State of Oregon.