

Peoria Riverfront Museum Names Vice President of Operations

November 4, 2011, Peoria, IL — The Peoria Riverfront Museum names Jerry Croegaert as the Vice President of Operations. Croegaert will be responsible for all aspects of facility operations, including maintenance, grounds and scheduling, control, mechanical HVAC, regulatory compliance, and others. He will also advise the President and CEO on strategic operational decisions.

“Jerry has a lot of experience working with multiple projects and aspects of management simultaneously,” said Jim Richerson, President and CEO of the Peoria Riverfront Museum. “With his background, Jerry is a proven team player. He knows how to get the most out of people and that’s just what we need right now.”

Croegaert comes to the museum from Vonachen Services, Inc. (VSI) where he was the Field Safety Director. Before VSI, he was the Operations Director at Northwoods Community Church, a 177,000-square-foot facility where he oversaw facility operations which includes a business office, an I.T. department and an in-house coffee bar and bookstore for the entire 44-acre campus and managed a \$6 million budget as Chief Financial Officer for the Church.

Croegaert retired from the U.S. Air Force January 1, 2009. As a member of the Illinois Air National Guard, he was a Maintenance Officer, Instructor Pilot, Logistics Group Commander and Squadron Commander. As Commander, Croegaert oversaw facility, personnel and equipment demands for deployed forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation of Enduring Freedom (OEF). He brings over 25 years of experience in facility maintenance, personnel management, budget creation and management, and resource allocation.

“This is an incredible facility and will have a tremendous impact on the community,” said Croegaert. “I’m excited to be part of such a big part of Peoria history and for the opportunity to be part of something that will touch so many lives.”

“We’re less than a year away from opening, and you can really see the facility starting to take shape downtown,” said Richerson. “This is the perfect time to be bringing on someone as experienced and motivated as Jerry.”

Croegaert received his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science from Western Illinois University before entering the Air National Guard. Since then, he has taken part in multiple training programs including the Academy of Military Science, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Squadron Officers School, and Air Command and Staff College.

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The Peoria Riverfront Museum is a collaborative effort of Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences, Caterpillar, Peoria Historical Society, African American Hall of Fame Museum, Peoria Regional Museum Society, Heartland Foundation, and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Some of the features of this facility include a digital 3-D large screen theater, state-of-the-art planetarium, Illinois River Encounter gallery, history and art exhibits for all ages, children’s Discovery Worlds and the IHSA Peak Performance Center. For more information, visit www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org.

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