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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WACVB Officers and Directors Elected for 2012 Program Year**

**Kathy Smits**, senior director of travel industry marketing at LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau, officially took office as President of the Western Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus (WACVB) at the Association's Annual Conference, October 12-14, 2011, in Ontario, California.

Other officers elected at the conference include President-elect **Lorene Palmer**, president & CEO, Juneau (AK) Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Secretary/Treasurer **Manette Belliveau**, president & CEO, Visit Oakland (CA). **Joel Racker**, president & CEO of the Utah Valley (UT) Convention & Visitors Bureau, will serve as Past President.

**Bill Malone**, president & CEO, Park City (UT) Chamber/Bureau, continues his two-year Director term on the Board. **Stephanie Nowack**, president & CEO of the Tempe (AZ) Tourism Office, was elected to a one-year Director term on the Board to complete an unexpired term.

The following Directors were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors: **Bob Brown**, president & CEO, Ontario (CA) Convention & Visitors Bureau; **Tracy Farhad**, executive director, Solvang (CA) Conference & Visitors Bureau; **Wes Rhea**, executive director, Stockton (CA) Convention & Visitors; **Sara Toliver**, president & CEO, Ogden/Weber (UT) Convention & Visitors Bureau; and **Jennifer Wesselhoff**, president & CEO, Sedona (AZ) Chamber of Commerce Tourism Bureau.

*The Western Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus is a regional professional association serving more than 135 destination marketing organizations in the western United States and the western provinces of Canada.*

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