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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO COMMODORES HOSTS 2018 SUMMER INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

***Urban Meyer featured as guest speaker and businessman Sam Covelli named Grand Commodore to succeed outgoing Alan Stockmeister***

COLUMBUS, OHIO – July 5, 2018 – The Association of Ohio Commodores held its annual summer induction dinner Friday, June 29 in Columbus, Ohio. The event took place at The Huntington Club at Ohio Stadium. Urban Meyer, Head Football Coach at The Ohio State University, was featured as the evening’s guest speaker as 23 of the most influential business people, politicians, and community leaders from around Ohio were inducted as new members of the Association.

The Association of Ohio Commodores is a group of individuals recognized by the Governor of Ohio for their contributions to economic development in their communities within state. Each year outstanding Ohioans are bestowed the state’s most distinguished honor, The Executive Order of the Ohio Commodore, for their business accomplishments, acumen, and leadership. This year, businessman Sam Covelli, Owner/Operator of Covelli Enterprises, the largest franchisee of Panera Bread, was named successor to Alan Stockmeister, the outgoing Grand Commodore. Covelli was previously a Fleet Commodore and has served as a member of the Association’s Board of Trustees.

Covelli plans to build on the progress made by Stockmeister during his four-year tenure. During his time as Grand Commodore Stockmeister increased lifetime membership by more than 10 percent, oversaw the largest summer event in the Association’s history, and supported numerous projects to enhance economic development throughout the state.

Among the 23 inductees was Sam Covelli’s son Albert Covelli. Coach Meyer was inducted into the Association’s Elite Corps.

**About The Association of Ohio Commodores**

Governor James A. Rhodes formed the Association of Ohio Commodores in 1966 for the purpose of assisting the state of Ohio in advancement in all areas contributing to the growth and development of the state and greater prosperity of its citizens. The association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio in 1971 as a non-profit organization and now its esteemed members are primarily involved with supporting the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor.

The Association is a nonpartisan organization that currently boasts a diverse and dedicated membership of more than 400 men and women. Members include government officials, distinguished university presidents and administrators; banking and legal professionals; leaders of trade organizations; chambers and economic development organization’s; and senior management executives of large, medium and small manufacturers from across Ohio in a wide variety of industries. [www.ohiocommodores.org](http://www.ohiocommodores.org)

**About Covelli Enterprises**

Covelli Enterprises operates more than 300 Panera Bread bakery-cafés in eight states. Headquartered in Warren, Ohio, Covelli Enterprises is the single largest franchisee of Panera Bread, LLC. In 2017, Covelli Enterprises donated more than $32 million to hunger relief agencies and non-profit organizations through *Covelli Cares*. [www.covelli.com](http://www.covelli.com)

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