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**THE FIRST TEE OF PHOENIX NAMES HERMAN LEWKOWITZ
AS NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN**

PHOENIX – The First Tee of Phoenix – owned and operated by The Thunderbirds – announced today the naming of Herman Lewkowitz as board chairman. Lewkowitz, who has served on The First Tee of Phoenix board for 14 years, will take over for Tim Kloenne who served as board chairman since the organization’s inception in 2001.

"I am honored to have served with Tim at The First Tee of Phoenix," said Lewkowitz. "My goal is to continue the success he’s championed over the better part of two decades, and provide as many learning opportunities as possible for the kids in our community."

Among Lewkowitz’s goals moving forward is to expand the reach of The First Tee of Phoenix by adding new programming facilities, add school districts to their National School Board Program and create philanthropic opportunities to support current and future programming.

"As a member of The Thunderbirds for 17 years, it was an easy decision to ask Herman to take on this important role," said Dan Calihan, Big Chief of The Thunderbirds. "Not only has he served on the board for 14 years, Herman was decorated with the Bob Goldwater Sr. Outstanding Active Thunderbird Award in 2003."

Lewkowitz is a banker by trade, and serves as director of marketing at MPM Investment Counsel.

About The First Tee of Phoenix

First Tee of Phoenix is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by The Thunderbirds for the purpose of providing affordable access to golf and golf learning facilities for young people in Maricopa County from all walks of life, particularly those who otherwise might not have an opportunity to play. As one of the largest chapters in The First Tee Network impacting more than 100,000 youth annually, The First Tee of Phoenix offers classes, special monthly family events and tournaments as part of its programming. Now with 15 locations in the Valley – Talking Stick, South Mountain, Desert Mirage, Papago, Falcon Dunes, Longbow, Lone Tree, Cave Creek, Encanto, Maryvale, Augila, Palm Valley, TPC Scottsdale and

Augusta Ranch – The First Tee of Phoenix programming sites serve as conveniently located places for participants to learn valuable life skills and character-building lessons through creative activities and instructional programs that incorporate the fundamental teachings of golf. For more information on The First Tee of Phoenix call 602-305-7655, or log on to their website at www.thefirstteeofphoenix.org.

About The Thunderbirds

The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. Consisting of 55 “active” members and more than 250 “life” members, The Thunderbirds host the Waste Management Phoenix Open; the best-attended golf tournament in the world, which to date has raised more than \$100 million for Valley charities, including The First Tee of Phoenix. With its unmatched fan participation and rich history dating back more than 80 years, the Waste Management Phoenix Open has gained legendary status for being a unique stop on the PGA. To learn more about The Thunderbirds or Thunderbirds Charities visit <http://thunderbirdscharities.org/>