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**NPTA Alliance Presents Walter Duignan
with Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award**

CHICAGO – NPTA Alliance is pleased to announce that Walter Duignan, executive vice president and vice chairman of Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc., is the recipient of the 2009 Stanley O. Styles (SOS) Industry Excellence Award.

The SOS Industry Excellence Award is named after Stanley O. Styles who worked more than 35 years with the Martin Cantine Co., followed by more than 35 years with NPTA Alliance. It's annually given to an individual who has had a distinguished career in the paper, packaging and supplies industry and has made a positive impact in the industry through innovation and dedication. Duignan was chosen out of a pool of four extremely qualified nominees for his contributions during his 47 years within the industry, including:

- Assisting Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc. to grow into a national powerhouse in writing, text and cover papers
- Organizing sales and marketing efforts to grow his former employer, Simpson Paper Company, more than \$1 billion in sales
- Training, supporting and mentoring numerous paper and packaging professionals

“Walter is a respected leader within the paper industry, as he leads by example,” said Newell Holt, CEO, NPTA Alliance. “He is honest and genuine, is committed to the distribution channel and is someone his peers have looked up to since he entered the industry almost 50 years ago.”

Duignan joined Mohawk in 1995 as executive vice president, strategic planning, with responsibility for strategic planning, sales, marketing and product promotions. In 2000, he became executive vice president and chairman, and in 2005 was appointed to Mohawk’s Board of Directors.

Prior to joining Mohawk, Duignan worked at Simpson Paper Company, where his first role was to organize a modern customer service department for Simpson’s west coast paper mill operations. Over time, he became vice president, sales & marketing, where he helped grow more than \$1 billion in sales, both domestically and internationally.

Duignan’s leadership was also a factor in choosing him for the award.

“He acts as a mentor for younger managers and is willing to share his historical perspective both as opportunities for learning and for encouraging taking the longer view and higher road,” said Thomas O'Connor, chairman/CEO, Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc.

Duignan will receive the SOS Industry Excellence Award on October 1 during the Chairman's Luncheon at NPTA Alliance's Annual Convention, September 29 – October 1, 2009. Scholarships will be awarded in his name through the Paper and Plastics Education Research (PAPER) Foundation Scholarship Program in 2010. When asked how he felt about receiving the award he said, “I am deeply honored to receive the Stanley O. Styles award. To join such an elite group – including my good friend Tom O'Connor, Sr. [2003 SOS award recipient] – is extremely rewarding.”

For more information on the Stanley O. Styles Industry Excellence Award, visit www.goNPTA.com.

About NPTA Alliance: NPTA Alliance (formerly the National Paper Trade Association, Inc.), founded in 1903, is the association for the \$60+ billion paper, packaging, and supplies distribution industry. The mission of NPTA is to actively support the success of its members through the delivery networking, education, industry data and research and advocacy, which focuses on the health of the distribution channel.

About Mohawk: Recognized for its technical innovation and environmental focus, Mohawk Fine Papers Inc. is the largest manufacturer of premium printing, writing, and digital paper in North America. Signature grades include Strathmore®, Beckett®, Mohawk Superfine™, Via®, BriteHue, Carnival, Synergy, Solutions, Nekoosa Linen, Mohawk Color Copy®, and proprietary Inxwell® products, Navajo®, and Options®. Mohawk is also the exclusive marketer of Kromekote and Knightkote, premium coated brands manufactured by Smart Papers.

Mohawk engineers its papers to provide optimal performance for sheetfed, web, and digital printing. Uses for Mohawk papers include corporate reports, corporate identity systems, brochures, packaging, invitations and announcements. Mohawk Digital Papers are also used in on-demand photo books, personalized direct mail, and custom packaging. Mohawk offers reams and envelopes at www.mohawkpaperstore.com.

A certified Women Owned Business Enterprise and leader in environmental stewardship, Mohawk is the first U.S. paper mill to offset 100% of its electricity with windpower renewable energy credits and the first U.S. premium paper mill to shift toward carbon neutral production. Also offered are recycled papers certified by Green Seal and papers certified to the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) standards by SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance. FSC certification ensures responsible use of forest resources.

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