

Grand Hotel and Battle House Win *ConventionSouth*'s Annual Readers' Choice Awards

GULF SHORES, Ala. (Nov. 4, 2015)— It is with honor that the publishers and editors of *ConventionSouth*, the national multimedia resource for planning events in the South, two Mobile-area hotels with 2015 Readers' Choice Awards.

"*ConventionSouth* readers and fans have voted to decide the best meeting sites in the South, and it is no surprise to us that both the Battle House and the Grand Hotel have been selected to receive our annual Readers' Choice Awards," said *ConventionSouth* Publisher J. Talty O'Connor. "The value in receiving this prestigious recognition is that it comes from the United States' top meeting professionals who hold events in the South. These planners demand the highest level of customer service and quality facilities, and they have contributed in determining that Battle House and the Grand Hotels indeed display the commitment to professionalism, creativity and service that they require."

The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Pt. Clear and the Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa are among 180 convention and visitor bureaus (CVBs), meeting facilities and hotels located across the South to receive this year's Readers' Choice Award. Part of the Resort Collection on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, the Battle House and the Grand Hotel join two other RTJ properties also receiving this honor: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center and Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa in Florence.

"The Battle House and the Grand Hotel are historical icons along Mobile Bay and I am very pleased they were recognized by the meeting planners who read *ConventionSouth*," said Tony Davis, CEO of PCH Hotels & Resorts (the Resort Collection on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.) "Both hotels opened in the mid-1800s and continue to do an outstanding job taking care of our business and leisure guests. Both hotels offer exceptional service for meeting planners and are well known for their Southern Hospitality," said Davis. The Grand Hotel has received this award for the sixth time and this is the fourth time for Battle House. "We are also pleased the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa and Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa from our Resort Collection were also award winners from *ConventionSouth*," he said. The RTJ Golf Trail and its Resort Collection are owned by the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

Award recipients will be featured in the December 2015 Awards Issue of *ConventionSouth* magazine. This exciting issue will also showcase some of the most talented meeting professionals in the nation as *ConventionSouth* also presents planners with its annual "Meeting Professionals To Watch" designation. "Featuring peer advice and trade secrets from our Meeting Professionals to Watch in 2015, our Awards Issue is one of the most popular must-read resources within the meetings industry," O'Connor said.

Throughout the year, meeting professionals nominated the meeting sites they believe provide exemplary service for group events. The nominated sites are then compiled onto an online ballot where meeting professionals and fans are asked to vote for the best of the best. More than 5,000 voters participated this year in the selection process - the highest vote count ever recorded.

Celebrating over 30 years as a leading meeting planning resource, *ConventionSouth* magazine is based in Gulf Shores, Ala., and is distributed to more than 18,000 meeting professionals located across the country who book meetings held within the South, according to O'Connor.

A complete list of award winners can be found online at:

http://conventionsouth.com/making_headlines/stay-tuned-for-2015-readers-choice-award-winners/