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News Release
December 14, 2006

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INAUGURAL CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER® (CPO®) EXAM A MILESTONE FOR ORGANIZING INDUSTRY

GLENVIEW, IL and DUNEDIN, FL—The National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) and the Board of Certification for Professional Organizers (BCPO℠) are pleased to announce the inaugural Certified Professional Organizer® (CPO®) exam. The exam will be administered on April 25, 2007, at NAPO's Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, and the inaugural class of Certified Professional Organizers will be announced in June.

CPO® Certification is a voluntary, industry-led effort which benefits the public and members of the organizing profession. "Certified organizers will exemplify the importance of professional standards and contribute to evolving standards in the industry as a whole," says Certification Chair Audrey Lavine. CPO® Certification recognizes those professionals who have met specific minimum qualifications and proven through examination and client interaction to possess the body of knowledge and experience required for certification. The program recognizes and raises industry standards, practices, and ethics. While the CPO® designation is not an endorsement or recommendation, certification of professional organizers maximizes the value received from the services provided and products recommended by a CPO®.

"Certification of any industry is a milestone to be embraced and celebrated," says NAPO President Barry Izsak. "It is a natural development and a measure of an industry's maturity and long-term viability in the marketplace," he continues. "By becoming certified, I am demonstrating to the public that I have made a calculated commitment to my career as a professional organizer and have embarked on a course of continuing education to keep abreast of new developments. Certification is the next logical step in my professional maturity and will ensure my long-term viability in the marketplace."

"Certification indicates proficiency in the core competencies of a profession," adds NAPO Secretary Sandy Stelter. "It gives further credence to being the experts in the field. I want those initials behind my name and the opportunity to explain them to prospective clients," she continues. NAPO-Houston Chapter Past President Kate Rhoad explains, "If NAPO is The Organizing Authority®, its members are the experts. Experts and professionals get credentialed whenever possible. The authority in any industry is the 'best.' The 'best' in NAPO will be those who have a CPO® behind their name." And NAPO Director Angela Wallace notes,

"I have been a leader in the professional organizing industry for 22 years. As certification is the next step in the development of our industry, I will definitely be part of the inaugural certification exam."

Employers also realize the value of the CPO® designation for their employees. NAPO Director Laura Leist says, "As the largest Organizing Services firm in Washington State, the CPO® exam will help set our company apart. I believe that clients will want to work with an individual that is certified, not just the certified business owner. Having a team of CPOs will show that our POs have the necessary skills and are serious about the work they do."

About NAPO (www.napo.net)
The premier national association dedicated to the field of organizing, the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) is The Organizing Authority®. Formed in 1985 as a not-for-profit professional association, NAPO is dedicated to serving its thousands of members through education, networking, industry resources, and promoting the profession to the public. NAPO's mission is to develop, lead, and promote professional organizers and the organizing industry. The association is affiliated with the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization (NSGCD) and Professional Organizers in Canada (POC).

As the oldest and largest professional association for professional organizers, NAPO is supporting the launch of BCPO℠ and the CPO® exam, a separate independent certification program for the entire organizing industry.

About BCPO℠ (www.certifiedprofessionalorganizers.org)
The Board of Certification for Professional Organizers (BCPO℠) is the certifying body whose charter is to increase the professionalism of the organizing industry by:

- Identifying a body of knowledge in the organizing profession
- Establishing the level of knowledge and experience required for certification
- Advancing the practice of professional organizing
- Increasing the value of organizing practitioners to their employers
- Recognizing and raising industry standards, practices and ethics
- Maximizing the value received from the products and services provided by CPOs

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