



1,202 – a new record – attended the Annual Meeting Membership Luncheon which was sponsored by ConocoPhillips.

# 4,051

## Attendance Record Set At Expo And Annual Meeting

Attendance at the Alliance Expo and Annual Meeting of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers on April 26-27 surpassed 4,000 tickets sold for the first time.

Again, the Barbecue on the first night had the largest attendance of 1,978. Even though that is very big, the record was set in 2008 when there were 2,008 eating the fantastic ribs cooked by the Mavericks of Wichita Falls.

The Membership Luncheon, however, did set an attendance record with 1,202. The previous record was set in 2008 with 1,138. The luncheon is sponsored by ConocoPhillips

The Breakfast, hosted by the insurance programs offered by the Alliance, also set a new record, with 535 in attendance breaking the old record of 514 set in 2008.

The record for the golf tournament came close with 336 (262 golfers in the morning and afternoon rounds at the Wichita Falls Country Club and 74 at the Champions Course at Weeks Park). In 2010, we had 341 golfers at the two courses.

### Luncheon Speakers

Former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia **James Oberwetter**, speaking to a record luncheon crowd just four days before the death of terrorist **Osama bin Laden**, said the turmoil in the Middle East and Northern Africa comes at a time when the nation needs to “show a strength of backbone.”

He noted that the upheaval is primarily due to the leaders not being in touch with the people.

Oberwetter, who served as Ambassador from 2004 to 2007 under President **George W. Bush**, said that the Saudi leadership is anxious about the uprisings in neighboring countries, but Saudi Arabia has not yet experienced the violent riots.

Because President Obama’s Administration did not support Egypt President Mubarak, a long-time ally of America, the Saudis are now wondering where they stand with the U.S.

Oberwetter, who also served as Vice President of Hunt Oil Company in Dallas for 30 years, said the Obama Administration's energy policy is "pathetic."

U.S. Rep. **Mac Thornberry**, Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, called Obama's energy proposals "counterproductive," and that his policies probably will cause more volatility in price.

"The best-case scenario we're in for is lots of ups and downs," Thornberry said.

He also said China continues to be a large purchaser of crude oil. In the Middle East, Iran is a serious problem that the U.S. will have to deal with in the future.

### **Membership Breakfast**

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, U.S. Rep. **Pete Olson** said that during a recent committee hearing, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official admitted that the EPA does not take into consideration the impact of proposed rules on jobs. That's why Olson said he has introduced the Establishing Public Accountability Act, which requires the EPA to include a statement identifying any net loss or gain of domestic jobs that would result from any new proposed rule.

"Texas has found itself in the crosshairs of a radical EPA that simply refuses to acknowledge our successes in increasing production and decreasing pollution," Olson told the 535 people attending the breakfast.

"From the EPA's rejection of the Texas flexible permitting system to their takeover of Texas' permitting authority to issue greenhouse gas permits, we have been battling with an EPA determined to expand its powers. Even with its job, population, and economic growth, Texas has actually improved air quality through its flexible permitting program. Texas achieved a 22% reduction in ozone and a 53% decrease in NOx emissions. Compare those numbers to a 15% reduction in ozone and 27 percent reduction in NOx levels nationwide. The EPA refused to recognize this success in their disapproval of Texas' flexible permitting program. Equally important, the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations will adversely affect nearly every business and energy consumer in America." Olson also pointed out that the EPA has a dismal record of respecting state authority most notably in the premature issuance of an Emergency Administrative Order by EPA's Region 6 Administrator Al Armendariz against Range Resources Corp. "I commend you and this conference for recognizing Range Resources' efforts in challenging the EPA," Olson said. "Regulatory authority over hydraulic fracturing should remain with the states."