

F R E E M A N

John F. O'Connell Jr. President

John O'Connell is president of Freeman, responsible for oversight of all company operations in the U.S. and Canada including the exposition, event and audiovisual divisions. He has more than 26 years of industry-related experience and personally produces several of Freeman's largest shows, including the New York International Auto Show and the Boston Seafood Show.

John joined Freeman in 1988 as senior vice president for the northeast, overseeing operations in three major cities and in Canada. He was named executive vice president/chief operating officer for the eastern region in 2001, and in 2006, he was named corporate EVP and COO. He moved into the role of president in July 2008. He also serves on the board of directors of Freeman Decorating Co., the firm's parent company; Freeman Decorating Services Inc.; and Freeman Audio Visual Solutions, Inc., as well as several executive committees. Prior to joining Freeman, John was vice president of Concept Convention Industries in Boston.

John holds both a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and has been active in both alumni and foundation programs for the University of Massachusetts.

John is heavily involved in industry organizations, having served on the board of the Center for Exhibition Industry Research (CEIR) and on subcommittees of the International Association for Exhibitions & Events (IAEE). John has also served on related boards and committees, including the Providence Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, and is a past chair of the IAEM Labor Committee.

John currently lives in New Seabury, MA, with his wife Donna, relocating to Dallas, Texas in September of 2008. They have two grown daughters, Gretchen and Becky.



Freeman is the world's leading provider of integrated services for face-to-face marketing events, including expositions, conventions, corporate events, and exhibits. The company is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and has offices in 41 cities across North America. Freeman produces over 3,900 expositions annually, including 103 of the largest 200 U.S. trade shows, and over 10,000 other events worldwide. Founded in 1927, the company remains privately held by the Freeman family as well as the full-time employee owners through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

For more information:

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