

**For Immediate Release:
March 31, 2011**

Three St. Paul Families Purchase the Lexington Restaurant

For only the third time in 76 years the Lexington restaurant will pass hands to new local ownership. Today Minneapolis businessman Thomas K. Scallen sold the iconic restaurant to John and Michelle Hickey, Tim and Maria O'Phelan and Dr. Ed and Jenni Ryan. The three couples are proudly taking on the stewardship of one of the most endearing institutions in St Paul.

The Lexington has been known as *the* meeting place in St Paul since its inception in 1935. Families, politicians, business people and clergy alike have met at the Lexington for celebrations, corporate events, holiday parties and just good company. The new owner group fully intends to continue the St. Paul tradition of "let's meet at the Lex".

New general manager, Michelle Hickey, states, "The feedback from people who've heard about the new ownership has been nothing short of amazing. We have some very exciting projects in the works that will reaffirm that the 'Lex' is the place to be and be seen in St Paul." The owner group intends to significantly invest in both facilities and personnel. The goal is to capture the culinary imagination of the next generation while maintaining the menu favorites for those who helped build the tremendous reputation that the Lexington enjoys today.

John Hickey, Tim O'Phelan and Ed Ryan are long-time friends and third generation St. Paul residents. Tim O'Phelan says it best, "the Lexington is classic St. Paul. It's a unique restaurant where one can enjoy a fine dining experience right next to the casual atmosphere of the bar. It's no wonder that so many people are passionate about the 'Lex' because it represents the heart of St Paul where nearly everyone has passed through at one time or another".

The Lexington Restaurant is located at 1096 Grand Ave. at the corner of Grand Ave. and Lexington Parkway in St. Paul. 651-222-5878

For more information, interviews and additional images, please contact Tim O'Phelan at 612-721-7100 or at ophelan@comcast.net