

Contact: Julie L. Ecker, Communications Coordinator
703-437-5300

N.G.A. ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairman Steven C. Smith Elected for Second Term

RESTON, Virginia (March 2, 2001) — The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.), the trade group dedicated to the representation of and service to the independently-operated or family owned grocery retailer and their suppliers, recently announced the association's new slate of officers for its Board of Directors and members of the Board's executive committee.

Steven C. Smith, president and CEO of K-VA-T Food Stores, Abingdon, Virginia, was re-elected Chairman of the Board. Previously, the Board of Directors by-laws stated that the Chairman could only serve one year. However, the by-laws were amended this year to allow the Chairman to serve a two year term.

"The change makes good business sense and is long overdue," said Thomas K. Zaucha, President and CEO of the Board of Directors. "N.G.A. has been privileged to have outstanding industry leaders serve as chairmen of the association and a second year will assure greater continuity of service and programs to the members. The entire board felt that Steve should serve another term as Chairman. His work and efforts as Chairman for the 2000-2001 term warranted the re-election."

Smith is currently the president and CEO for K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. His responsibilities include the total operation of a large number of Food City supermarkets in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Before becoming president and CEO in 1993, Smith served as the executive vice president of store operations and assistant CEO for K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc.

Newly elected as Vice Chairman was **Charles J. Pilliter of Unified Western Grocers, Inc., Commerce, California**. Pilliter is currently the executive vice president of sales and marketing for Unified Western Grocers. His career in the grocery industry began in 1964, working for several family owned independent food stores. Pilliter's current responsibilities as executive vice president of sales and marketing include Cooperative Division Sales and Marketing, manufacturing facilities which include Dairy, Bakery and Ice Cream, Meat and Service Deli Division, Produce Division, Corporate Ad Groups and the International Division.

Continuing to serve on the board as officers are secretary/treasurer, **Craig T. Danielson, Dan Inc. Oregon, Oregon City, Oregon** and president and CEO, **Thomas K. Zaucha, N.G.A., Reston, Virginia**.

Newly elected committee members include:

Mark K. Batenic, Fleming Food Companies, Inc., Oaks, Pennsylvania. Batenic is currently the senior vice president Northeast Operations for Fleming Food Companies. He joined the Fleming Food Companies after graduating from the University of Kansas in 1973, beginning in the merchandising department. Prior to being named senior vice president Northeast Operations, Batenic served as senior vice president, retail sales and marketing.

Robert D. Ranus, Roundy's, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ranus is a certified public accountant and holds a certificate in data processing. He is currently the vice president-chief financial officer of Roundy's, Inc. He has held that position for approximately ten years and previously served as vice president of finance for Fox Industries, a "mini-conglomerate" with a heavy concentration in food wholesaling.

Continuing to serve as committee members are **Mark S. Feldpausch, Felpausch Food Centers, Hastings, Michigan**; **James B. Meyer, Spartan Stores, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan** and **Michael S. Needler, Fresh Encounter, Inc., Findlay, Ohio**.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers.

