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**N.G.A. ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER
DURING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

ARLINGTON, Virginia (July 11, 2002) — The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) appointed a new member to its board of directors at the 2002 Washington Conference and Grocers Care Celebration, which was held June 23-25 in Washington, D.C.

The newly elected wholesale member is Joseph Sheridan, executive vice president, Wakefern Food Corporation, a retailer-owned cooperative and the wholesale and merchandising and distribution arm for the ShopRite Supermarkets located in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Delaware.

Sheridan joined Wakefern in 1976 and progressed through numerous procurement and management positions in Grocery, Direct Store Delivery, Bakery and General Merchandise. In March of 1996 was named Executive Vice President. Sheridan and his wife Joan and their three children reside in Neshanic Station, New Jersey.

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.