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N.G.A. Appoints New Board of Directors Executive Committee Officers and Member at Executive Management Conference

ARLINGTON, Virginia (November 1, 2002) — The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) elected two new Executive Committee Officers and appointed one new Executive Committee Member to its board of directors at the N.G.A. Executive Management Conference, which was held October 12-15, in Scottsdale, AZ.

When former N.G.A. Chairman of the Board, Chuck Pilliter, left Unified Western Grocers, Mike Needler, president and CEO, Fresh Encounter, Inc., Findlay, OH, automatically became N.G.A.'s new Chairman, which left the office of Vice-Chairman open in addition to one vacancy on the Executive Committee. The Board elected Gary Phillips, Associate Wholesale Grocers, Kansas City as the new Vice Chairman, and Carole Bitter, Friedman's Supermarkets, Butler, PA, as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Joe Sheridan, executive vice president, Wakefern Food Corporation, Elizabeth, NJ was appointed as a new member of the Executive Committee.

Phillips joined Associated Wholesale Grocers in 1974. He led the Springfield Division as senior vice president and general manager for 14 years. In 1996, he was named executive vice president and chief financial officer until he was appointed president and CEO in September 2000. Phillips and his wife, Marsha, have grown twin sons and one granddaughter.

Bitter has been president and CEO of Friedman's Supermarkets since April 1976. She advanced quickly through the ranks to become the first woman, as well as the youngest, supermarket manager in the 160-store chain. In 1981, she completed a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Cornell University. Friedman's is a 100-year-old, privately held family business which operates seven stores in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

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 and others are employee owned. 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.

