



News Release

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The National Grocers Association Announces 2006 Board of Directors Executive Committee at the 2006 Annual Convention

ARLINGTON, VA, -- The National Grocers Association (N.G.A) announced the new 2006 N.G.A. Executive Committee of the N.G.A. Board of Directors at the association's 2006 Annual Convention and Supermarket Synergy Showcase, held February 7-10, at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

N.G.A.'s slate of Executive Committee Officers for 2006-2007 includes:

- *Chairwoman of the Board:* **Carole F. Bitter, Ph.D.**, Friedman's Supermarkets, Bulter, PA
- *Immediate Past Chairman:* **Gary Phillips**, Associated Wholesale Grocers, Kansas City, KS
- *Vice Chairman:* **Michael L. Jackson**, SUPERVALU, Minneapolis, MN
- *Secretary-Treasurer:* **Robert S. Ukrop**, Ukrop's Super Markets, Richmond, VA
- *President & CEO of N.G.A.:* **Thomas K. Zaucha**, Arlington, VA

The Executive Committee Members include:

- **Dick Casey**, Food 4 Less, Joplin, MO
- **Christopher Coborn**, Coborn's Inc., St. Cloud, MN
- **Richard Niemann, Jr.**, Niemann Foods, Inc. Quincy, IL
- **Joseph Sheridan**, Wakefern Food Corporation, Elizabeth, NJ
- **Phil Smith**, Unified Western Grocers, Inc., Commerce, CA

"The 2006 Board of Directors will play a large role in continuing to position N.G.A. as the nation's leading advocate for independent, community-focused retail grocers and wholesalers; I look forward to working with each of them," commented N.G.A.'s president and CEO Thomas Zaucha. "N.G.A. is the only national association devoted exclusively to the growth and the prosperity of the independent, community-based grocery system, and it is vital to have dedicated individuals such as these behind us".

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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 a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. 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, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: www.NationalGrocers.org.