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# News Release

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## **THE NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION HONORS OUTGOING CHAIRWOMAN DR. CAROLE BITTER**

**ARLINGTON, VA**, -- The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) honored outgoing N.G.A. Chairwoman Dr. Carole Bitter for her successful two-year term as the Chairwoman of the National Grocers Association Board of Directors at the 2008 Annual Convention and Supermarket Synergy Showcase. The annual Chairman's Dinner and Gala was held February 7, 2008 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

At the Chairman's Dinner and Gala, Dr. Bitter was honored for her service and leadership as a Chairwoman and dedicated member to the association. "Carole has been instrumental and influential in this top leadership, she has been in the forefront of some of the most exciting and challenging decisions that have faced this Association since its inception in 1985" said Tom Zaucha, President and CEO of N.G.A. "Carole may be leaving this position but we will be calling on her expertise and vision for years to come, she represents what the independent community-focused retailer truly is. Her company is 107 years old; a recognized leader in the industry, and a person with passion, commitment and insight in what she does."

Earlier in the convention Dr. Bitter presented N.G.A.'s State of the Association message. In this message she focused on the challenges and opportunities ahead for the independent retailers and wholesalers. Under Chairwoman Bitter's leadership with the association, N.G.A. has continued to passionately and effectively serve its exclusive mission: to advance and protect the interests of independent, community focused retailers and wholesalers.

As a forceful advocate in the Food Industry, on Capitol Hill, in the Regulatory Agencies, and in the Courts – N.G.A. has promoted such critical issues as achieving fair play on the competitive field for independent, community-focused retailers and wholesalers. Through combining aggressive advocacy with independent-oriented educational programs and services, N.G.A. has enabled many independents -- and the wholesale distributors servicing and supporting them -- to be stronger today than ever before. Thanks to the continued membership, support and involvement, N.G.A. today is stronger than ever -- in its resources, its influence and its effectiveness.

Dr. Bitter said "As Chairwoman, it has clearly been an exciting and productive year, as N.G.A. launched numerous successful governmental initiatives, educational and research projects, and

operational services. 2008 will be a year of continued pricing pressures as economic instability, fuel, commodities and aggressive competition remain high. Given the structure, dynamics and challenges of the 2008 marketplace, N.G.A. will continue its focus and efforts toward “leveling the playing field” for grocers – building on N.G.A.’s record of accomplishment of 2007.”

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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](http://www.NationalGrocers.org).