



Jewelers of America press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New England Jewelers Association Welcomes New Executive Director

Walter Brown has joined the New England Jewelers Association as executive director and will oversee the growing association, which now includes Maine jewelers

New York, NY – The New England Jewelers Association has welcomed Walter Brown as its new executive director, effective March 1. Brown will oversee the growing association, which now includes the Maine Jewelers Association.

Brown comes to the association after working for two decades with Amtrak. Prior to joining Amtrak, Brown enjoyed a 26-year career in retail management. He held various positions – from store manager and director to district supervisor – at top retail institutions.

Brown acknowledges that his history in the retail business will help him in his role as NEJA executive director. “It gives me great insight into retail management and what a retail jeweler goes through on a day-to-day basis,” says Brown. “I look forward to supporting the NEJA membership and working with the NEJA board of directors to promote and enhance the jewelry retail industry throughout New England.”

As executive director, Brown will oversee the day-to-day operation of the association. He will work closely with the NEJA board of directors to accomplish their goals and objectives for the association.

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Maine Jewelers Association Joins NEJA

Brown will assist the NEJA board as it expands the organization to include the Maine Jewelers Association, which merged with NEJA in January. NEJA consists of members from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. With the inclusion of Maine, NEJA's expanded membership creates a stronger, united network of jewelers in the North East.

“This is a mutually beneficial merger, because Maine has many active designers and jewelers who will greatly enhance the participation at NEJA events,” explains NEJA President Steven Duvarney, of Duvarney & Co., Fitchburg, MA. “We look forward to planning larger, more significant design and educational events, which will receive a larger attendance that will benefit all NEJA members.”

Brown will assist in planning upcoming events for the new members of NEJA, such as the “Gems of Friendship Dinner,” on April 28 in Augusta, ME. Maine will also host the NEJA Annual Design Competition in Fall 2007.

Outgoing executive director (and Brown's wife) Sandy Brown said, “This association is bigger in size, both geographically and membership-wise. We have a lot of new faces joining our events. The board is cohesive and focused. I can't think of a better place to be in, especially for a new Exec.”

Walter Brown can be contacted at walter@newenglandjewelers.com and (800) 794-5141.

The New England Jewelers Association is a regional affiliate of Jewelers of America (JA). It was established in December 2003, when the Vermont Jewelers Association and New Hampshire Jewelers Association decided to partner with the Massachusetts- Rhode Island Jewelers Association.

For more information about Jewelers of America, visit www.jewelers.org.

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