

AUGUST 3, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOHN COHEN ELECTED JA CHAIRMAN New Officers, Board Members Also Named

NEW YORK CITY — John Cohen, Co-CEO of Greensboro, NC-based Carlyle & Co., was elected chairman of Jewelers of America during the organization's Board of Directors meeting in New York on Saturday, July 30, 2005. Cohen succeeds Alan Zimmer of Reeds Jewelers, Wilmington, NC, whose two-year term has ended.

"It is an honor to serve as chairman of Jewelers of America," Cohen said. "I look forward to working with my fellow board members, as well as with JA's staff, to assist JA members with their business needs and to help the organization provide leadership on national and global industry issues."

Also at the JA board meeting, the following officers were elected:

- John Green, Lux, Bond & Green, West Hartford, CT, Chairman-Elect.
- Terry Burman, Sterling Jewelers, Akron, OH, Vice-Chairman.
- Georgie Gleim, Gleim the Jeweler, Palo Alto, CA, Vice-Chairman.
- Michael L. White, White's Jewelers, Springfield, TN, Treasurer.
- Susan Jacques, Borsheim's, Omaha, NE, Secretary.

In addition to the election of officers, JA welcomed four new board members:

- Marvin Beasley, Helzberg Diamonds, North Kansas City, MO.
- Scot Congress, Congress Jewelers, Sanibel Island, FL.
- John Hayes, Goodman's Jewelers, Madison, WI.
- Woody Justice, Justice Jewelers, Springfield, MO.

(more)

Continuing on the JA board are the following jewelers:

- Artie Bennos, Simms II Jewelers, Winchester, MA.
- Jon Bridge, Ben Bridge Jeweler, Seattle, WA.
- Jeffrey Corey, Days Jewelers, Waterville, ME.
- Vicki Cunningham, Cunningham Fine Jewelry, Tulsa, OK.
- William Farmer, Jr., Farmer's Jewelry, Lexington, KY.
- Mary Forte, Zale Corp., Irving, TX.
- Esther Fortunoff, Fortunoff, Uniondale, NY.
- Marion Halfacre, Traditional Jewelers, Newport Beach, CA.
- Barbara Hight-Randall, Hight & Randall, Ltd., Rochester, MN.
- Michael J. Kowalski, Tiffany & Co., New York, NY.
- Merritt Mayher, Shreve, Crump & Low, Boston, MA, and
Schwarzchild's Jewelers, Richmond, VA.
- William Nichols, Jr., Reis-Nichols, Inc., Indianapolis, IN
- Alan Rodriguez, House of Stones, New Philadelphia, OH.
- Richard White, Ed White Jewelers, Cullman, AL.

Completing their terms on the JA board, in addition to outgoing chairman Alan Zimmer, are Stanislas de Quercize of Cartier, New York, NY, and H. Victor Hellberg of Hellberg's Jewelers, Marshalltown, IA.

"JA offers congratulations to our new officers, welcomes our new board members, and thanks all of our board members for their service to JA and the jewelry industry," said JA President and CEO Matthew A. Runci. "We would also like to express our gratitude to Alan Zimmer, Vic Hellberg, and Stanislas de Quercize, who are stepping down from the board, for their dedication to Jewelers of America and our members."

*Jewelers of America is the national trade association for retail jewelers.
With more than 11,000 members, JA also works locally through its 40 state and regional affiliates.
JA advocates high social, ethical, and environmental standards, promotes professional
business and leadership skills, and enhances its members' profitability by
offering education, certification, marketing and cost-saving programs.*

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JA President and CEO Matthew A. Runci (left) watches as outgoing JA Chairman Alan Zimmer of Reeds Jewelers, Wilmington, NC (right), passes the gavel to newly-elected JA Chairman John Cohen of Carlyle & Co., Greensboro, NC (center).

(To receive an electronic file of the above photograph, please contact Clifford Jackson at Jewelers of America at 800-223-0673 or clifford@jewelofam.org.)