



JEWELERS OF AMERICA

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Jewelers of America Announces Board Elections & New Chairman

Terry Burman, of Sterling Jewelers Inc. and Signet Jewelers Limited, elected chairman of JA Board of Directors

New York, NY – Jewelers of America (JA), the national trade association for businesses serving the fine jewelry retail marketplace, has elected Terry Burman, Group CEO of Signet Jewelers Limited and chairman of Sterling Jewelers Inc., as JA's new chairman of the board. He succeeds John Green, of Lux Bond & Green, West Hartford, CT. Burman was elected during JA's Board of Directors meeting in July, which also welcomed new directors.

Terry Burman, Chairman

Burman takes office at an exciting phase in the association's development. He will lead the board as JA initiates a new organizational structure – due to its merger with Jewelry Information Center, which was approved by the New York State Attorney General's office this week.

“Terry is an exceptional leader in the jewelry industry, and he has greatly enhanced Jewelers of America with his wisdom while serving on our Executive and Ethical Initiatives Committees. We are privileged to have him guide our Board of Directors as they continue the significant work that Past-Chair John Green oversaw during his term,” says President & CEO Matthew A. Runci.

As Group CEO of Signet Jewelers Limited and chairman of Sterling Jewelers Inc., Burman leads the largest specialty retail jeweler in the world. Throughout his career, Burman has shared JA's commitment to promoting the health and professionalism of the industry. He participated in the formation of the Responsible Jewellery Council, of which JA is a founding member. In addition to his contributions to JA, he chairs the Advisory Committee of the World Diamond Council and is a board member and past-chairman of Jewelers For Children. According to Burman, he “grew up in retail,” beginning with work at his family's chain, Roberts Department Store, and continuing through his service in the U.S. Navy as an Assistant Navy Exchange Officer and his 15 years of executive experience at Barry's Jewelers, prior to joining Sterling in 1995.

“It is an honor to serve as chairman of Jewelers of America,” Burman says. “I look forward to working with my fellow board members, as well as with JA's staff, to continue the important work on national and global industry issues that JA is undertaking on behalf of its members and the fine jewelry retail marketplace.”



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Board Elections

At JA's Board of Directors meeting, the following directors were also elected as officers:

- Chairman-Elect – Georgie Gleim, Gleim The Jeweler; Palo Alto, CA
- Vice Chairman – Michael Kowalski, Tiffany & Co.; New York, NY
- Vice Chairman – Jeff Corey, Day's Jewelers; Waterville, ME
- Treasurer – Peter Engel, Fred Meyer/Littman Jewelers; Portland, OR
- Secretary – Vicki Cunningham, Cunningham Fine Jewelry; Tulsa, OK

In addition to the executive committee elections, JA welcomed seven esteemed industry leaders as new directors. Each new director exhibits a commitment to the retail jewelry industry, through participation in industry organizations, by seeking the utmost in jewelry education, and in giving back to the community at large through charity and foundation work. The following directors will serve on the board through 2011:

- Tom Andruskevich, President and CEO, Birks & Mayors, Inc.; Tamarac, FL
- Ryan Berg, Vice President, Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry; Metairie, LA
- Jeff Hamra, Owner, Hamra Jewelers; Scottsdale, AZ
- Bev Hori, Vice President, Ben Bridge Jeweler; Seattle, WA
- Theo Killion, President, Zale Corporation; Irving, TX
- Beryl Raff, Chairman and CEO, Helzberg Diamonds; North Kansas City, MO
- James Rosenheim, CEO, Tiny Jewel Box; Washington, DC

In addition to Chairman John Green, outgoing directors include Marvin Beasley of Helzberg Diamonds, Artie Bennos of Simms II Jewelers, Jon Bridge of Ben Bridge Jeweler, Steve Robbins of Robbins Bros. and Michael White of White's Jewelers.

"JA is fortunate to have a dedicated board of such highly regarded industry professionals. We offer congratulations to our new officers and directors, and thank all of our current and outgoing directors for their service to JA and its members," says Runci.

For the complete list of JA's 2009-2010 Board of Directors, visit www.jewelers.org/aboutJA/board.html. For high-resolution images of new members, contact Lauren Thompson at lthompson@jewelers.org.

About Jewelers of America:

Jewelers of America is the national trade association for businesses serving the fine jewelry retail marketplace. Jewelers of America's primary purpose is to improve consumer confidence in the jewelry industry by: serving as a forum for discussion and analysis of issues; playing a leadership role in public, government and industry affairs; advocating professionalism, including high ethical, social and environmental standards; and facilitating members' access to education. For more information about Jewelers of America, visit www.jewelers.org.