



**IRVING WEBER ASSOCIATES, INC.**

• INSURANCE AGENTS, BROKERS & CONSULTANTS •



**Great Central**

INSURANCE COMPANY, SM

Member **Argonaut**  
GROUP INC., SM

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**IRVING WEBER ASSOCIATES, INC.  
ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC AGREEMENT WITH GREAT CENTRAL INSURANCE CO.**



(Seated left to right, John Polak – President and CEO of Great Central Insurance Company, Adam Weber – Vice President of Irving Weber Associates, Inc.)

**Smithtown, New York (April 25, 2005)**-Before you invest any more time and money for your insurance coverage, consult with Irving Weber Associates, Inc. on the benefits of their newly enhanced fabricare insurance programs – which include Property, Liability, Automobile, Umbrella and a Workers' Compensation Safety Group with the potential of earning a dividend.

Irving Weber Associates, Inc. has concluded negotiations with Great Central Insurance Company, (Peoria, Il.), a subsidiary of Argonaut Group, Inc., to transfer their entire fabricare insurance program.

Adam Weber, Vice President of Irving Weber Associates, states “We are very excited about our new partnership. It will provide great opportunity for Irving Weber Associates to provide even better and broader benefits to our fabricare clientele. Our close to 60 years of experience and expertise of providing unmatched insurance protection to the fabricare industry, along with the unique products and services provided by Great Central, will serve to enhance our proven programs. In addition, the new relationship will strengthen the position of both IWA and Great Central as the premier insurers to the fabricare industry throughout the United States. It is expected that this move will improve service and claims handling, while making our program even more competitive than before. Moreover, IWA’s responsibility as the Managing General Agent will allow us the ability to apply our experience of the marketplace to the underwriting template provided by Great Central”.

John Polak, President of Great Central Insurance, states “We are proud to partner with Irving Weber Associates, a firm that shares our long-term commitment to the fabricare industry. Combining our unique products and services with the experience and dedication of Irving Weber Associates will enhance both our organizations. In addition, this partnership will strengthen our position as the premier insurer of the fabricare industry in the United States.”

#### **ABOUT IRVING WEBER ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Founded in 1946, Irving Weber Associates (IWA,) is a third generation specialty insurance agency and consulting firm. They specialize in the design, marketing and underwriting of niche industry insurance programs that provide unique and comprehensive insurance products. IWA has been a major force in the insuring of the fabricare industry, such as dry cleaners, commercial launderers, linen suppliers, uniform rental firms, and restoration experts since their inception.

#### **ABOUT GREAT CENTRAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

Great Central Insurance Company, backed by the financial strength of the Argonaut Group, is a specialty insurer with comprehensive risk management solutions designed for various niche markets. This specialization creates a high degree of expertise in the underwriting, claims and safety services offered by Great Central. The opportunity to provide effective insurance and risk management solutions for our customers is a result of this focus.

#### **ABOUT ARGONAUT GROUP, INC.**

Headquartered in San Antonio, Argonaut Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: AGII) is a national underwriter of specialty insurance products in niche areas of the property and casualty market with assets of approximately \$3.1 billion. Through its operating subsidiaries, Argonaut Group offers high quality customer service in programs tailored to the needs of its customers’ business and risk management strategies. Collectively, Colony Insurance Company, Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company, Argonaut Insurance Company, Argonaut Great Central, and Trident Insurance Services underwrite a full line of products in four primary areas: Excess and Surplus, Specialty Commercial, Risk Management, and Public Entity. Information on Argonaut Group and its subsidiaries is available at [www.argonautgroup.com](http://www.argonautgroup.com)

Irving Weber Associates, Inc. together with Great Central Insurance Company, are committed to working together to present fabricare industry experts with the most comprehensive and affordable insurance solutions. For additional information, contact Keith Camacho (800) 243-1811.