



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: John Polak  
President – Great Central  
309-681-2255  
jpolak@argonautgroup.com

### **Argonaut Group's Great Central Insurance and Irving Weber Associates Secure the Exclusive Endorsement of Top Fabricare Trade Associations**

**Peoria, IL (July, 2007)** - Great Central Insurance Company, a member of the Select Markets segment of Argonaut Group, Inc. (NasdaqGS:AGII), and Irving Weber Associates (IWA) are pleased to announce they have obtained the exclusive property-casualty insurance endorsement from several of the nation's top fabricare trade associations. Great Central, through an exclusive agreement with IWA, offers its specialized fabricare Businessowners Policy along with Commercial Automobile, Umbrella and a Safety Group Workers Compensation dividend program to association members.

Great Central and IWA are proud to have secured the endorsement of these fifteen industry leading associations:

- Americas Best Cleaners (ABC)
- Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN)
- Illinois State Fabricare Association (IFSA)
- Indiana Dry-Cleaning & Laundry Association (IDLA)
- International Fabricare Institute (IFI)
- Iowa-Nebraska Cleaners Association (INDLA)
- Kentucky Fabricare Association (KFA)
- Mid-Atlantic Association of Cleaners (MAC)
- Minnesota Cleaners Association (MCA),
- North Carolina Association of Launderers & Cleaners (NCALC)
- North East Fabricare Association (NEFA)
- Ohio Cleaners Association (OCA)
- Pennsylvania & Delaware Cleaners Association (PDCA)
- Rocky Mountain Fabricare Association (RMFA)
- Western States Drycleaners & Launderers Association (WSDLA)

“Great Central and IWA view these endorsements as further validation that we provide the market leading property and casualty insurance product to the fabricare insurance industry. We view our partnership with Irving Weber, to deliver customized products and services to association members, as a means to help them protect and grow their businesses,” said John Polak, President of Great Central.

Great Central offers its specialized fabricare package exclusively through Irving Weber Associates, the nation's largest provider of fabricare insurance products. IWA, in turn, works

with brokers in many states to place drycleaner, linen supply, uniform rental and commercial laundry risk in this program. Irving Weber Associates, Inc. and Great Central Insurance Company are committed to working together to present fabricare industry experts with comprehensive and affordable insurance solutions.

Great Central, operating in Peoria, Illinois since 1934, is recognized as the leader in providing insurance and risk management services to its Food and Hospitality, Religious and Other Institutions, and Specialty Retail niches and is the endorsed carrier for a number of leading state and national trade associations.

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

Headquartered in San Antonio, Argonaut Group, Inc. (NasdaqGS:AGII) is a national underwriter of specialty insurance products in niche areas of the property and casualty market, with \$3.8 billion in assets. Argonaut Group offers a full line of high quality products and services designed to meet the unique coverage and claims handling needs of businesses in three primary segments: Excess and Surplus Lines, Select Markets, and Public Entity. Members of Argonaut Group include Colony, Argonaut Specialty, Rockwood, Great Central, Grocers Insurance, Trident, and Argonaut Insurance. Information on Argonaut Group and its subsidiaries is available at [www.argonautgroup.com](http://www.argonautgroup.com).

#### **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. Information on Irving Weber Associates is available at [www.iwains.com](http://www.iwains.com) or by calling Keith Camacho, Vice President of Sales and Broker Relations at 1-800-243-1811.



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