

North American
Wholesale Lumber
Association

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TO: All NAWLA Members and Industry Friends

FROM: Buck Hutchison
NAWLA Chairman

DATE: Monday, September 28, 2009

SUBJECT: NAWLA Announces New President

After conducting an exhaustive nationwide search and interviewing candidates from inside and outside the industry, the NAWLA Executive Committee announced that Gary F. Vitale has accepted the position of President of NAWLA.

Gary brings 25 years of significant industry experience to NAWLA. His most recent position was that of President/CEO of TW Hager Lumber Company; a wholesale distribution company headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

At Hager, Gary's responsibilities included the design, communication and implementation of strategic plans, ensuring product and customer diversification, financial reporting, inventory control and significant customer and manufacturing relationships.

Prior to his tenure as President/CEO of TW Hager, Gary worked for Guardsman Products as the General Manager of the Wood Coatings Distribution Group. He also has held positions with Formplac of North America and Formica Corporation.

Gary's commitment and passion for serving NAWLA on a volunteer level is evidenced by his assuming chairmanship of the Membership, Communications, and Branding Steering Committees; as well as his serving as Second Vice Chair of our Association.

As President of NAWLA not only will Gary be responsible for managing the operations of the NAWLA offices, he will coordinate the volunteer activities of the Association Officers, Directors and Committees. Gary will represent NAWLA at all industry events and meetings.

Gary earned a BS in Marketing Management from St. Peter's College and has completed Masters Degree course work at Rutgers University.

Gary and his family will be relocating to Chicago and he will be on board at the NAWLA offices October 15, 2009.

