



Grafton H. "Cap" Willey Elected 2007 NSBA Chair

Dec 14, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Grafton H. "Cap" Willey IV of Portsmouth, R.I., has been elected chair of the National Small Business Association for 2007, effective Jan. 1. Willey's election occurred during the organization's annual membership meeting, held Nov. 3 in Hilton Head, S.C.

"NSBA is fortunate to have a small-business advocate of Cap's experience and commitment lead our organization," NSBA President Todd McCracken said. "We are looking forward to a very successful year."

Willey, a Rhode Island native, currently serves as a shareholder and a member of the board of directors for Tofias PC -- a New England accounting and consulting firm. He is a long-time NSBA member and has served myriad roles in the organization -- including first vice chair, treasurer, as well as chair of the tax and Washington Presentation committees.

Willey serves as Rhode Island chair for the Smaller Business Association of New England and chaired the Ocean State delegation to the White House Conferences on Small Business in 1986 and 1995. He also is active in the Rhode Island Society of CPAs, three local Chambers of Commerce, the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, local activities of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Small business is really big business for the U.S. economy -- representing more than 50 percent of the country's gross domestic product and almost all of the new jobs created," Willey said. "Small business has done this in spite of huge disadvantages. We need to protect and encourage the growth of our economic engine. Bringing the success of the U.S. small-business sector into the global economy is our next big challenge. I am confident that our small businesses will meet this challenge with the same success they have met prior challenges."

Willey holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University.

For 70 years, NSBA has been an advocate for the interests of small-business owners throughout the country. The organization, which reaches more than 150,000 small-business owners, is the oldest small-business advocacy organization in the United States.

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