



BV Schmuck+Uhren

German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks
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PRESS RELEASE

General Assembly of BVSU: President Uwe Staib confirmed in office

The German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks & Supplying Industry reflected on the year 2020 at its general assembly. The elections of the executive Committee and Presidency were held.

Pforzheim, 30.03.2021. Under the special circumstances caused by the pandemic, the general assembly of the German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks & Supplying Industry (BVSU) took place today as a virtual event. The most important point of the agenda was the announcement of the election of the association's presidency and executive committee, carried out in advance by the member representatives via mail ballot. The members re-elected Pforzheim-based entrepreneur **Uwe Staib** as BVSU president. The 64-year-old joins his fifth two-year term with immediate effect. Staib had taken over the office for the first time in February 2013. He has been an uninterrupted member of the BVSU executive committee since 1999, when the former German jewellery and watch associations merged. Before the merger, Staib had been active as vice chairman of the watch association since 1995. During today's assembly, the vice presidents and other committee board members were also elected for the term of office 2021-2023. The new BVSU Executive Committee includes:

President **Uwe Staib** (Hermann Staib GmbH, Pforzheim), Vice Presidents **Adalbert Mayer** (AMS-Uhrenfabrik A. Mayer GmbH, Furtwangen) and **Marcus Binder** (Binder Metalle GmbH & Co. KG, Mönshheim), board members **Michael Harer** (HOVON EUROPE GmbH, Pforzheim), **Karlheinz Karner** (Bauer-Walser AG, Keltern), **Hermann Bender** (Max Fröhlich GmbH, Essen), **Oliver Scheurle** (Quinn Scheurle GmbH, for the Schwäbisch Gmünd Precious Metals Association) and **Tino Renninger** (Burkhardt + Bischoff GmbH + Co. KG, Keltern). In accordance with the articles of association, the chairman of the association's Social Policy Committee (**Rainer Schiessle**, Christian Bauer GmbH & Co KG, Welzheim) and the first chairman of the Precious Metals Association, **Dr. Philipp Reisert**, (C. Hafner GmbH + Co. KG, Wimsheim) belong to the board as natural (non-elected) members.

BVSU Managing Director **Dr. Guido Grohmann** reported to the General Assembly on the association's activities in the past year 2020. The industry association's biggest task in 2020 was to provide advice, information and legal representation for its members. However, the focus this year was not only on the classic technical topics such as hallmarking, RJC or others. With the emergence of the first signs of a shutdown, the networks to politics, institutions and trade associations that had been built up over many years were used to find and pass important information to members regarding the pandemic, the shutdown, and the strategic possibilities for companies to cope with the crisis.

In contrast, the trade fair activities came to an almost complete standstill. New possibilities were constantly explored, applications submitted, trade fairs and joint appearances planned just in case, only to be postponed or cancelled in the end.

The most important task during the pandemic was to represent the interests of the industry vis-à-vis political and economic players. The pandemic impressively demonstrated how important long-term connections and years of networking are. "Only those who maintain relationships in quiet times and constructively contribute to networks have a seat at the table and are listened to in bad times," Grohmann said.

As the link to politics, the industry associations have a clearly defined responsibility to forcefully present the needs of the industry to political decision-makers. This also applies internationally, and so the obligations of the Federal Association in the World Jewellery Association CIBJO, in the European watch associations and in the Responsible Jewellery Council were also fulfilled. With regard to the work of CIBJO, Mr. Grohmann thanked Mrs. **Karina Ratzlaff** for her honorary commitment as president of the federation of industry associations.

Great thanks were also expressed to Mrs. **Christine Köhle-Wichmann** and Mr. **Roger Waldherr**, who had led the association-owned service company Deutsche Schmuck und Uhren GmbH very successfully and with positive results through the year 2020, despite the lockdown and months of closure of their retailer shop.

Grohmann concluded his remarks with a promise to the association members to continue to provide them with all relevant information and to make maximum use of the opportunities for business to continue as normal as possible through communication with politicians and other decision-makers. He also reminded that negotiations with IG Metall Union on a new collective agreement in the precious metals industry will begin in a few weeks. The Social Policy Committee of the Association had already started to work on this topic months ago and is preparing the companies and the Association in the best possible way for the situation, which will be extra difficult in the middle of this global crisis.

The German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks & Supplying Industry (BVSU) was founded in Pforzheim in 1947. As a lobby group for over 170 predominantly medium-sized member companies, BVSU represents the interests of its members at a national, European and international level. BVSU is a member of the Federation of German Industries (BDI). It is responsible for coordinating the federal associations of the German jewellery and silverware industry. In this capacity it is also integrated in global efforts of the World Jewellery Confederation, CIBJO. BVSU represents the interests of the German watch and clock industry at a European level as a member of the European watchmaking associations EUROTemptus and CPHE. BVSU is a member of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC).