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CAA EXPANDS TO OKLAHOMA & KANSAS

Combined Agents of America Announces Expansion Outside Texas With Two New Members at Quarterly Meeting

AUSTIN, Texas, March 10 – Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA), announced its landmark expansion outside of Texas and into the broader south central region of the country with two new members, Ed Berrong Insurance Agency based in Oklahoma and Bridges Group, Inc. Insurance based in Kansas, at its quarterly meeting February 24-26, 2009 in Bastrop, Texas. Texas-based CAA is a managing general agency (MGA) committed to strengthening the independent insurance agency system across the country through profitable growth and exceptional service for its member agencies.

“The addition of these two new members based in Oklahoma and Kansas opens a new horizon of opportunity that will allow CAA to grow and expand our market presence for the benefit of our clients and company partners,” said Lloyd Eisenrich, CAA secretary and president of The Weatherby-Eisenrich Agency, Inc., headquartered in Andrews, TX. “This expansion outside of Texas is the natural first step to realizing CAA’s vision to spread into the broader south central and southwest region of the country and to do so with the highest quality agencies.”

A family-owned agency, Ed Berrong Insurance Agency began over 60 years ago in 1948. Based in Weatherford, Oklahoma, it serves Oklahoma and surrounding states with a full line of insurance products, including home, auto, business, life and health, while specializing in oil and gas. For 14 consecutive years, Ed Berrong Insurance was selected by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) as a prestigious Best Practices agency.

“We were attracted to CAA by the quality and character of the members we met. The CAA members seem to be among the most honest and responsible agents in the industry,” said Brad Berrong, new CAA member and co-owner of Ed Berrong Insurance Agency.

Since 1894, The Bridges Group has served the region surrounding Norton, Kansas for over a century as an insurance specialist with a range of insurance products, including home, business, crop, farm and ranch, auto, health, and other financial services. Since 2004, Bridges Group was selected by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) as a prestigious Best Practices agency. URL: <http://www.bridgesinsurance.com/>.

“We sought membership with CAA to develop and strengthen our relationships with the some of the best carriers in the nation. Our customers will benefit from the expanded selection of companies and empower Bridges Group to provide the best fit to our customer’s needs,” said

Trent Richmond, new CAA member and president of Bridges Insurance and Great Plains Insurance of Kansas. “We are thrilled to be the first agency from Kansas to become a CAA member.”

CAA’s member agencies convene on a quarterly basis to knowledge share, discuss industry issues, review its relationships with insurance carriers, and assess CAA operations. Highlights from the recent board meeting include:

- New member presentation to independent agency prospects,
- Insurance carrier presentations by Safeco, CNA, Travelers, Zurich and Hartford
- Scott Addis, CEO of The Addis Group, presentation to members
- Member golf tournament at Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, TX.

About Combined Agents of America, LLC

Founded in 1997 Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is based in Austin, Texas, and comprised of 40 independent insurance agencies located throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. By funneling the agencies’ combined premiums, CAA brings larger volume commitments to insurance companies, while empowering its members to realize greater benefits from insurance companies, vendor discounts and other incentives.

CAA works with 18 of the largest insurance companies in the nation. CAA is nationally ranked as the number one independent agency in the southwest region by many of the top rated insurance companies and ranked 18th of the “Top 100” independent agencies in the nation by the *Insurance Journal* in 2008. All CAA member agencies remain independent and are recognized by insurance companies as a key component to their future growth and goal commitments. Additional information is available at www.combinedagents.com.

CAA member agencies include: Aars & Nelson Insurance Agency, Barnard Insurance Agency, Bartlett, Baggett & Shands, Benchmark Insurance Group, Benton-Luttrell-Brown Company, Bigham-Kliwer-Chapman-Watts Insurance Agency, BRIA Insurance & Risk Consultants, Bridges Group Inc., Bosworth & Associates, Bryan Insurance Agency Ltd., Brownrigg Insurance Agency Inc., Cravens-Warren & Co., Crockett Insurance Service, Duncan-Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency Inc., Ed Berrong Insurance Agency, Ed Weeren Insurance Agency Inc., EFGI Insurance & Bonds LCC, Evans-Ewan & Brady Insurance Agency Inc., First Insurance Services, Henry Norris Insurance Agency, Inc., Garrett Insurance Agency, Inc., GBS Insurance Agency Inc., Grona Boles and Martin Insurance Agency Inc., Insurance Associates of Texas, Insurance Net Inc., JHC Insurance Agency Inc., J. S. Edwards & Sherlock Insurance Agency, McCorkle Commercial Insurance Agency, Mims & Smith, Pierson-Fendley Insurance, Pinnacle Insurance Group Inc., Porter Insurance Agency Inc., Purifoy & Company, The Shropshire Agency Inc., Siegeler Insurance Agency, Inc., Walthall-Sachse & Pipes, Inc., The Weatherby-Eisenrich Inc., Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc., Western Insurance Agency, and Whorton Insurance Services.

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