MMIC names new Vice President of Claim

MMIC is pleased to introduce the new Vice President of Claim, Tim Smith. He joined the company in May, bringing with him more than 23 years of experience in the legal and insurance industries.

Smith received his Bachelor of Science in accounting from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and earned his Juris Doctorate from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California.

Before joining MMIC, Smith held positions as Vice President of Claims at COPIC Insurance Company and Vice President of Claims for CNA HealthPro. He was previously Regional Vice President for the Caronia Corporation and Senior Vice President of Claims for both the Kemper Insurance Company and the Reciprocal Group of Companies.

Prior to working in the insurance industry, he actively defended cases in California and Illinois in the areas of medical malpractice, products and general liability. He has managed claims in all 50 states.

When he’s not at work, Smith enjoys spending time with his family – wife, Teresa, and children, Bri (17), Hunter (14) and Lexie (13). He also likes skiing, scuba diving and fly fishing.

MMIC Named Top Workplace

MMIC Group was recently named one of the 2011 Top Workplaces in the Twin Cities (Minnesota) metro area, based on an employee-based survey project from the Star Tribune. The Top Workplaces special section was published in the Star Tribune on Sunday, June 19.

Produced by the same team that compiles the 19-year-old Star Tribune 100 report of the best-performing public companies in Minnesota, Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in the metro based on employee opinions about company leadership, career opportunities, workplace flexibility, compensation and benefits.

(continued on page 4)
MMIC to Revise Organization Structure

In the upcoming weeks, all MMIC policyholders and Class “C” shareholders will receive a packet of information from MMIC, inviting them to participate in a special meeting – either in person or by proxy. You will be asked to consider and vote upon a plan of reorganization, under which MMIC Group, Inc. will become a mutual insurance holding company.

After extensive deliberation and careful analysis, MMIC and its Board of Directors have concluded that a mutual holding company reorganization is in the best interest of MMIC, its shareholders and policyholders. The plan approved by the board is intended to enhance the long-term ability of the company to provide competitive products and services to its policyholders.

MMIC believes that the reorganization will position the company to continue serving our policyholders by providing an enhanced ability to merge with other mutual holding companies or combine with other mutual insurers, providing opportunities to grow core businesses and produce the economies of scale necessary to compete.

The reorganization is expected to provide MMIC with greater strategic flexibility and financial strength by creating an organizational structure that is easily recognizable and commonly understood.

When you receive the MMIC packet, please review the materials and submit your vote. The deadline for returning the Proxy Card is August 18. If you have any questions about the company reorganization, log onto the MMIC website, MMICGroup.com/vote – or call your MMIC representative.

MMIC receives A.M. Best’s “A” rating for the 19th straight year

A.M. Best has affirmed MMIC Insurance’s “A” (excellent) rating once again. MMIC has enjoyed an A.M. Best “A” rating since 1992 and has been able to continue receiving this mark of distinction, thanks to experienced leadership and the dedication of its employees.

“When you think about the fluctuations of the financial and insurance industries during the past 20 years, this accomplishment is truly extraordinary.”

The A.M. Best rating system offers an independent opinion of companies’ financial strengths and their ability to meet ongoing insurance policy and contract obligations. Its “A” rating places MMIC’s financial strength in one of the highest categories available, rated as both excellent and “stable.” This “stable” rating indicates MMIC has a, “low likelihood of rating change due to stable financial/ market trends.”
Libby Lincoln retires after 29 years

Known as a woman who never backed away from a challenge, Libby Lincoln, General Counsel and Senior VP of Law and Health Policy, has retired after 29 years with MMIC.

Libby joined MMIE (now MMIC) in 1982 as a claim/risk management representative. Shortly after she arrived, she was instrumental in creating the company’s Risk Management Department.

She moved into management and was later promoted to VP of Risk Management. In addition to starting MMIC’s Law and Health Policy Department in 1996, Libby experienced a myriad of changes in the health care industry. In the 1990s, as health care organizations began to consolidate, insurance companies could no longer sustain their previous unspoken non-compete agreements. One way MMIC met this challenge was by expanding into the Dakotas and Nebraska. “The next generation of change,” says Libby, “will involve health care reform. Once again MMIC will need to reposition itself to compete in this new environment.”

In 1986, Libby was involved in a unique tort reform effort to address a crisis in the affordability of professional liability insurance. “We collaborated with the defense bar and plaintiff bar to create a tort reform package that passed the legislature and has been instrumental in keeping Minnesota malpractice costs in check.”

Julie Stafford, VP of Sales, Marketing and Communications, speaks highly of Libby’s contributions. “Libby was always tuned in to the industry and knew how to guide us in responding accordingly to the current challenges as well as putting a plan in place for the future.”

Libby says one of the most rewarding parts of her work was building relationships with policyholders, including doctors and administrators. “I enjoyed getting to know them well and knowing they saw MMIC as a trusted partner. They let us into their practices and counted on us to work with them through any issues they might face.”

Lori Trygg, VP of MMIC’s Legal Department, admired Libby’s networking abilities. “She always knew who to go to for what we needed. Libby also represented the company like nobody else could and strengthened our presence in the community.”

Moving into retirement, Libby looks forward to traveling, pursuing a lifelong dream of taking a Japanese language immersion course at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and utilizing her dance background to lead a dance program for Parkinson’s patients. She will also continue her work with Breanna’s Gift, a nonprofit that brings the magic of arts and dance to children living with cancer and other serious illnesses.

Thank you, Libby, for all your contributions to MMIC and our customers. Best wishes for a very fulfilling retirement!
MMIC Named Top Workplace (continued)

The analysis included responses from more than 33,000 employees at Minnesota public, private and nonprofit organizations. The rankings in the Star Tribune top places to work are based on survey information collected by Workplace Dynamics, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention.

Star Tribune Publisher Michael J. Klingensmith said, “I congratulate each of the companies in the Star Tribune Top Workplaces on their outstanding accomplishment. They have succeeded in creating a positive workplace for their employees during very challenging economic times.”

To qualify for the Star Tribune Top Workplaces, a company must have more than 50 employees in the Twin Cities metro area. More than 1,000 companies were invited to participate. Rankings were composite scores calculated purely on the basis of employee responses.

We’d like to hear from you!

The Review newsletter is published by MMIC Group, based in Minneapolis, Minn. If you’d like to receive this newsletter electronically — or if you have comments to share with us — we’d love to receive your feedback. Please send an e-mail to: Communications@MMICGroup.com.