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Independent Insurance Agents of Texas Elect New Board Members at 112th Annual Conference

AUSTIN, TX – June 17, 2009 – The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) elected three new directors during its recent 112th Annual Conference & Trade Show in Austin. Bill Barnard of Barnard Insurance Group in Wichita Falls; Kyle Paschall of Naler Insurance Agency, Inc. in McGregor; and Diannah Tatum of Sanford & Tatum Insurance Agency in Lubbock will begin three-year terms on Sept. 1.

Bill Barnard is partner in Barnard Insurance Group, LLP and a past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Wichita Falls. Barnard received a bachelor's degree in insurance from the University of Texas at Austin in 1978 and he went on to obtain his Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation in 1991. In his professional role, Barnard has served on both the Texas Personal Lines Council and Personal Lines National Council for Travelers Insurance.

Barnard currently serves on the IIAT Small Agency Advisory Council, IIAT Budget & Finance Committee and is a regional vice president of IIAT IMPACT. He has also served on the IIAT Youth Golf Tournament Committee. Barnard was recently recognized as an IIAT Hometown Hero for his service in the local community. Over the years Barnard has been heavily involved in many civic organizations in Wichita Falls including Children's Miracle Network, Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Downtown Proud and Ducks Unlimited.

Kyle Paschall is president and CEO of Naler Insurance Agency, Inc. and past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Central Texas. Born and raised in McGregor, Paschall graduated from Baylor University in 1987 with a degree in Insurance and Real Estate. In 1988, he graduated from the USF&G School of Insurance in Baltimore, MD and earned his CIC designation in 1998.

Paschall has served on the IIAT Small and Rural Agents Committee. He is active in and is a past president of the McGregor Rotary Club, and is the Contemporary Praise and Worship leader for the First Methodist Church of McGregor.

Diannah Tatum is co-CEO of Sanford & Tatum Insurance Agency. She received her CIC designation in 1987 and has been very involved in the state and local independent agency system. Tatum has served on the board of the Independent Insurance Agents of Lubbock as secretary/treasurer and co-chair of the Big I Day Committee. In addition to the position on IIAT's board of directors, Tatum currently serves on IIAT's Finance Committee and chairs the Agency Technology Task Force. She has also served on IIAT's Personal Recruitment & Development Task Force, Agency Management Advisory Council, Volunteer Leadership Team and the Committee on Agency Resource Management.

At the professional level Tatum has served as advisory council to several organizations including Texas Mutual Insurance, Texas Medical Group, Texas NorthStar, CGU Insurance and Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund. She also volunteers her time in the Lubbock community with the Covenant Health System, Meals on Wheels and United Way.

"IIAT board members bring to bear such diverse experience this year," said Bryan Shofner, incoming IIAT president. "I'm confident our new directors will help lead the organization in better serving its members and the insurance community across Texas."

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About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation's largest state association of Trusted Choice® agencies. IIAT represents approximately 1,800 agencies and more than 15,000 agents and insurance professionals. Trusted Choice® independent agents represent multiple insurance companies. Since they are not employees of any single insurance company, they are advocates for insurance consumers helping them comparison shop for cost-effective and customized coverage. IIAT is also affiliated with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and works with legislative, regulatory and judicial bodies in Texas on behalf of independent insurance agents across the state. More information on IIAT can be found online at iiat.org.