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### **ZICK ELECTED CHAIR OF NEW YORK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION**

**LATHAM, NY**— Richard J. Zick, president and chief executive officer of Utica First Insurance Company was elected chair of the New York Insurance Association (NYIA) at the association's Annual Meeting on Nov. 5 in Latham, N.Y. Zick will serve a one-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2010.

Zick has served on the NYIA Board of Directors for the past 10 years and was recognized as the association's 2008 Chair's Distinguished Service Award winner. He is also chair of the New York Insurance Scholarship Foundation, which is affiliated with NYIA and has served on numerous NYIA committees.

"NYIA is fortunate to have someone as experienced, talented and committed as Richard serving as chair of the association," Ellen Melchionni, president of NYIA said. "He was recognized by NYIA for these reasons last year, even before serving as chair. There is no doubt Richard will build on NYIA's rich history and lead the association to greater success."

Zick began his insurance career after graduating from Niagara University. His career has taken him from underwriter to underwriting management to executive vice president. He has held his current position of president & chief executive officer since 2000. He attained his Associate in Underwriting designation in 1981 and the Chartered Property/Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 1985. Since that time, he has received seven Continuing Professional Development Certificates. He served as an adjunct professor for 10 years at Mohawk Valley Community College and taught New York State agent's licensing courses as well as management courses.

He serves on the board of Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) and is former chairman of the American Association of Insurance Services (AAIS). He is also involved in the community, having served on the boards of the United Way, Community Foundation, Family Services, Boy Scouts, Teugega Country Club and Utica College.

Zick has received several prestigious awards. He was named Insurance Executive of the Year by Metro-RAP in 2003, Insurance Professional of the Mohawk Valley in 2005, Man of the Year by the Greater New York Council of Insurance Brokers in 2005, was given the Presidential Citation from PIA in 2005, and was named the UJA-Federation of New York - Insurance Division Honoree in 2008.

He resides in Rome, N.Y. with his wife Nikki and daughter Jillian.

The New York Insurance Association (NYIA®) is a state trade association that has represented the property and casualty insurance industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit [www.nyia.org](http://www.nyia.org).

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