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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MELCHIONNI NAMED PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

ALBANY, January 8, 2008 – Ellen D. Melchionni, CAE was recently named president of the New York Insurance Association, Inc. (NYIA). Her appointment was effective January 1, 2008. Melchionni succeeds Bernard N. Bourdeau, CAE who retired after 18 years of service to the organization.

Melchionni has been employed by NYIA since 1993. She was originally hired as a legislative analyst and promoted to vice president in 1999. Prior to joining NYIA, Melchionni was employed by both the New York State Senate and Assembly for a combined tenure of over 10 years.

“I have worked closely with Ellen over the past several years and look forward to her leadership with the association,” NYIA board chair and American International Group, Inc. director of state relations, Cecilia E. Norat said. “I am confident that NYIA will continue to provide exemplary service to the insuring public under her guidance. Ellen’s legislative experience and long history with the association make her a true asset to the organization.”

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Melchionni received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude from the State University of New York at Albany. She is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) as designated by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). She is an active member of ASAE and the Empire State Society of State Association Executives (ESSAE). She serves on ESSAE's board of directors and is a graduate of its Association Leadership Academy. Melchionni is also a 1998 graduate of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce Capital Leadership Program. She is president of the New York Alliance Against Insurance Fraud. She is a previous member of the Professional Insurance Women of Albany and Albany & Schenectady County Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs.

She resides in Loudonville, New York with her husband William and two children.

NYIA is a trade association of more than 70 auto, home and business insurers in New York State, representing the industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit www.nyia.org.