



For Release: Immediately

Contact: Kevin McArdle 215.256.5279 kmcardle@harleysvillegroup.com
Randy Buckwalter 215.256.5288 rbuckwalter@harleysvillegroup.com

**HARLEYSVILLE GROUP NAMES JACOBS
VICE PRESIDENT OF WORKERS COMPENSATION UNDERWRITING**

HARLEYSVILLE, PA—APRIL 7, 2005—Harleysville Group Inc. (Nasdaq: HGIC) today announced the appointment of Henry J. Jacobs as vice president of workers compensation underwriting. In this new position, he is responsible for directing Harleysville’s workers compensation product line strategy and underwriting discipline. He will work closely with the company’s profit centers and their agents, as well as loss control, claims, actuarial and other business units within the organization.

In announcing Jacobs’ appointment, David K. Bond, senior vice president of commercial lines, said, “Hank’s extensive experience as a workers compensation product director will bring added focus to this critical line of business, which is a key factor in the overall profitability and growth of our organization’s commercial lines portfolio.”

Most recently, Jacobs served as senior vice president of XL Specialty Division Corporate Underwriting, within the XL Capital insurance organization. During his tenure with XL, he also served as vice president of workers compensation underwriting for XL Environmental. At XL, he was responsible for establishing a national workers compensation underwriting platform, as well as improving the line’s profitability and increasing its production. Prior to XL, he was vice president of workers compensation for USF&G. He also has held various workers compensation and underwriting positions with American International Group, Fireman’s Fund and Hartford Insurance.

A graduate of Seton Hall University, he holds the professional designation of Associate in Risk Management (ARM). He also served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Harleysville Insurance is a leading regional provider of insurance products and services for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for individuals, and ranks among the top 60 U.S. property/casualty insurance groups based on net written premiums. Harleysville Mutual Insurance Company owns 56 percent of Harleysville Group Inc. (Nasdaq: HGIC), a publicly traded holding company for nine regional property/casualty insurance companies collectively rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company. Harleysville Insurance, which distributes its products exclusively through independent insurance agencies, currently operates in 32 eastern and midwestern states. Further information can be found on the company’s Web site at www.harleysvillegroup.com.

***NOTE TO EDITORS:** A photograph of Henry Jacobs is available upon request.*

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