



For Release: Immediately

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**HARLEYSVILLE GROUP TO WEBCAST
ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING ON APRIL 27, 2005**

HARLEYSVILLE, PA—APRIL 13, 2005—Harleysville Group Inc. (Nasdaq: HGIC) will Webcast its annual shareholders' meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, beginning at 10:30 a.m. (ET). The meeting is expected to last less than one hour.

The Webcast will be available from the Investors section of the company's Web site (www.harleysvillegroup.com). The Webcast will be an audio-only presentation. An archive of the event will be available on the company's Web site until May 11, 2005.

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.

To obtain investor materials, including the company's latest annual report, Form 10-K and other corporate announcements, contact the investor relations department (215.256.5151 or investorrelations@harleysvillegroup.com) or visit the company's Web site.

Certain of the statements made during this meeting (other than statements of historical facts) are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include estimates and assumptions related to economic, competitive and legislative developments. These forward-looking statements are subject to change and uncertainty that are, in many instances, beyond the company's control and have been made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect on Harleysville Group Inc. There can be no assurance that future developments will be in accordance with management's expectations so that the effect of future developments on Harleysville Group will be those anticipated by management. Actual financial results including premium growth and underwriting results could differ materially from those anticipated by Harleysville Group depending on the outcome of certain factors, which may include changes in property and casualty loss trends and reserves; catastrophe losses; the insurance product pricing environment; changes in applicable law; government regulation and changes therein that may impede the ability to charge adequate rates; changes in accounting principles; performance of the financial markets; fluctuations in interest rates; availability and price of reinsurance; and the status of the labor markets in which the company operates.

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