



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORD & BROWN GENERAL AGENCY'S JOAN BUMGARNER WINS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Annual Award Recognizes Outstanding Volunteer Service Among NAHU Members

ORANGE, Calif. – July 17, 2008 — [Word & Brown General Agency](#), a division of [The Word & Brown Companies](#), today announced that Field Sales Director Joan Bumgarner received the National Association of Health Underwriters' (NAHU) Distinguished Service Award – a prestigious designation given to only a handful of NAHU members in recognition of their volunteer service.

“I’m thrilled,” said Bumgarner, a member of the Los Angeles Association of Health Underwriters (LAAHU), a chapter of NAHU. “It’s rewarding to be recognized for doing what comes naturally – helping people.”

The annual award honors NAHU members who have gone above and beyond what is normally required in connection with association volunteer service at the local, state, and/or national level, including commitment of time, talent and finances. NAHU members include more than 20,000 licensed health insurance agents, brokers, consultants and benefit professionals in more than 200 chapters across America. Members service the health insurance needs of employers as well as individuals seeking health insurance coverage.

“Word & Brown has extensive involvement with NAHU and we’re happy to have an associate acknowledged for her commitment to the organization,” said Jim Greth, senior vice president of Word & Brown General Agency. “This is an important award within the industry and we’re proud of Joan for everything she’s done to deserve this recognition.”

Bumgarner, a Word & Brown General Agency employee since 1997 and an active member of LAAHU since 1991, has served in various capacities including President, President Elect, and Hospitality Chair for the association. Additionally, she has also served as the association liaison to Camp Ronald McDonald for the Good Times, written numerous articles for state and local association chapters, and led continuing education classes for insurance brokers on behalf of the association.

About Word & Brown General Agency

The Word & Brown General Agency is a division of The Word & Brown Companies and is based in Orange, Calif. It is a leader in developing and distributing health benefit plan models and solutions to licensed brokers.

Word & Brown has worked with premier health plans for more than 20 years, offering a comprehensive product portfolio and innovative sales tools and quoting systems so brokers can provide quality benefits solutions to clients.

Word & Brown delivers prompt, knowledgeable service and extensive sales support to assist brokers. Calls and e-mails are immediately answered by sales representatives who are ready to evaluate and compare health plans, prepare quotes, and provide the latest information. A statewide team of field representatives is also available to accompany brokers on client presentations and consult with them in their offices.

Visit www.wordandbrown.com for information.

About The Word & Brown Companies

The Word & Brown Companies, headquartered in Orange, Calif., provides services to nearly 55,000 employers covering more than 6 million people across the nation. During its more than 20-year-span, The Word & Brown Companies has become the nation's recognized leader in developing and offering innovative technology and health benefit plan models and the nation's most sophisticated employee benefits services to companies of all sizes. **The Word & Brown Companies includes: The Word & Brown General Agency; CHOICE Administrators®; CONEXIS; and Quotit® Corporation.**

Visit <http://wordandbrowncompanies.com> for more information.

About the National Association of Health Underwriters

Visit www.nahu.org for information.

Media Contact:

Melissa Suggs
The Word & Brown Companies
714.564.4896
msuggs@wordandbrowncompanies.com

###