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65811 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT Year Ending December 31, 2011 AMERICAN MODERN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

39942 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT Year Ending December 31, 2011 AMERICAN NATIONAL GENERAL INSURANCE CO.

WHEREAS, the American Modern Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Ohio, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota...

WHEREAS, the American National General Insurance Co., a Corporation organized under the Laws of Missouri, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota...

State rules to govern marketing, labeling of 85 octane gasoline

The Department of Public Safety is drafting rules to clarify the legal status of 85 octane gasoline in South Dakota markets and to specify how that product must be labeled.

A recent review of state laws and rules by the Department's Office of Weights and Measures determined that the sale of 85 octane gasoline is illegal anywhere in South Dakota.

"We were asked to review the legality of 85 octane fuel," said David Pfahler, director of the Office of Weights and Measures. "We found no legal authority for its sale in the state, even though it has been commonly accepted as a preferred higher-altitude fuel."

State law refers to octane content as an anti-knock index. For many years, gasoline with an octane level of 85 has been marketed in western South Dakota. In recent months the product has been marketed in eastern parts of the state, as well.

Prior to the advent of computer controlled engines in automobiles, around 1984, vehicles had a carbureted engine in which the spark used to ignite the air/fuel mixture in the cylinders was mechanically advanced or retarded. In carbureted engines, a number of factors affected engine knock, altitude being one of the most significant.

In response to the altitude factor, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), developed a number of regions in which it was determined that a lower octane gasoline would perform at a given altitude as well as 87 octane would at sea level. The ASTM regions are generally high-elevation Rocky Mountain states.

After discussions with representatives of the petroleum industry, it was decided that due to possible supply shortages during the summer

travel season, 85 octane could be made available as a market choice for consumers, with proper cautionary labeling. Vehicle manufacturers' groups do not support the sale of 85 octane gasoline and most engines are designed to run on a minimum of 87 octane gasoline.

The proposed rules will clarify that 85 octane is a legal product in South Dakota. However, the rules will also specify the labeling required to assure that consumers know the product may not meet the manufacturer's minimum fuel standards for their vehicle.

The Office of Weights and Measures will follow a rule-making process that includes public notice of the proposed rules and then public hearings to allow interested persons to have input before the rules are adopted.

Pfahler urged consumers to check the owner's manuals of their vehicles to determine the proper octane level recommended for each type of vehicle. Many people are likely to find that most modern automotive engines call for a minimum octane level of at least 87, he said.

During the recent review, inspectors with the Office of Weights and Measures found instances of mislabeling of motor fuel. Some fuel with an 85 octane level was being sold as 87 octane and in some instances 89 octane. State law requires octane level to be accurately posted. State inspectors will continue to check for compliance with legal posting requirements.

Conviction of mislabeling fuel is a Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine or both.

Pfahler also noted that the 85 octane issue is unrelated to E-85, a reference to a motor fuel that contains a blend of gasoline and ethanol.

New benefits for unemployed veterans

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation announces unemployed veterans may qualify for additional education, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits through the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011.

This act provides seamless transition for service members, expands education and training opportunities for veterans, and provides tax credits for employers who hire veterans with service-connected disabilities.

"The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers 12 months of retraining assistance to unemployed

veterans who meet certain criteria," said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. "The program will train the veteran for a high demand occupation."

Nationwide, the VRAP is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1 through Sept. 30, and to 54,000 participants from Oct. 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014.

Veterans who previously completed a VA vocational rehabilitation program and have used the initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits may qualify for an additional 12 months of VA vocational rehabilitation benefits.

"Veterans can apply for the additional benefits now, and the education or training may begin

June 1, 2012," said Roberts.

VA may offer incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants. An employer may be reimbursed up to one-half the annual salary of the participant for six months or longer.

To apply or learn more about retraining assistance, vocational rehabilitation and employer incentives, contact a South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation local office. An office directory is available at www.sdjobs.org.

More information on the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 is available at http://benefits.va.gov/vow/index.htm.

Gant announces voter registration deadline

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant reminded voters today that Monday, May 21st marks the voter registration deadline for South Dakotans who intend to vote in the June 5th Primary Election.

"With a presidential election in 2012 along with a congressional contest, and many legislative and local races, I expect a lot of registrations," said South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant.

"Since January 1st, 6,350 people have registered to vote, and as of May 1st, there are currently a total of 511,038 South Dakotans registered to vote."

Current voter registration numbers in South Dakota breaks down as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Party and Count. Republican: 235,288; Democrat: 186,172; Independent: 87,651; Libertarian: 989; Constitution: 310; Americans Elect: 0; Other: 628.

"If you are not a registered voter and want to

participate in the Primary Election on June 5th, you have until Monday to register to vote," Gant said. "Democrats can vote on a statewide US Congressional candidate as well as a number of legislative district races. Republicans can vote on the Presidential candidate where all of the candidates are still on the ballot as well as numerous legislative district races. Independents may vote on the Democrat ballot or on a non-political ballot if one is available. Libertarian, Constitution, and Americans Elect registered voters may only vote on a non-political ballot if one is available."

"Otherwise, on June 5, South Dakota has several county, municipal and school elections in some locations throughout the state."

Those who are registered to vote by the end of the business day May 21 will be eligible to vote for the nominations of political and nonpolitical candidates for public offices as well as to elect officials to party offices in the June 5th Primary Election.

School of Health Sciences students garner top research honors

Students at the University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences have earned high recognition for their research efforts.

Natasha Fisher, Jessica Graupmann, Lindsey Jones, Alicia Ray, Stephanie Utech and Jenna Visser – all social work majors at USD – were recently announced as winners of the student poster competition at the Inaugural Social Work Student Advocacy Research Conference at Dominican College in Orangeburg, NY. The conference brought together student-

participants from undergraduate and graduate social work programs in three U.S. states and six universities or colleges.

"I am very proud of this research team who has now garnered experience presenting at three different conferences," said Peter Kindle, Ph.D., assistant professor, USD Department of Social Work. "The next generation of social work researchers is gaining momentum."

Graupmann and Visser, representing their team, received the first place award for their

project, "Career Pathways of BSW Graduates of Rural Social Work Programs."

The project collected information on alumni from four different schools who had obtained bachelor's degrees in social work – with a rural emphasis – to determine initial employment issues, turnover, work conditions, compensation, continuing education and client population served. Their poster discussed implications for sustaining the future of undergraduate social work educational programs.

Vermillion man nominated for Irene Ryan acting scholarship

A recent production by the Northeast Community College student theatre troupe, the Northeast Players, received favorable reviews from two judges for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF)

The Players' run of the Samuel Beckett masterpiece, "Waiting for Godot," recently ended at Northeast. The production was entered into the running for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) in January of 2013. College and university students from a six-state area come together to share their work and love for theatre at the KCACTF.

Two judges from the KCACTF (one a theatre instructor at Kansas State

University, the other an instructor from Iowa State University) offered the Players feedback after the opening night's performance.

"I asked the judges to take the gloves off and give us their harshest criticism. I didn't want to hear only about what they liked," Director and Northeast Speech/Theatre Instructor Adam Peterson said. "While it is nice to be complimented, it is criticism that provides the best learning opportunity."

Peterson said that, in spite of his request, the judge's criticism of the production was minimal. In an hour of feedback, most comments from the judges were positive.

"Specifically, the judges felt that the troupe's connection to the text was paramount,"

Peterson said. "They loved the costumes, set, lights, and interpretation of characters. The Players will find out within the next month if 'Godot' will be performed for the next festival."

Students connected to the festival will also have an opportunity to audition for the Irene Ryan Scholarship to help pay for further education in theatre. Those students must first be nominated by the judges who viewed a production that they were part of.

"Typically, the judges will nominate two actors, but for 'Waiting for Godot,' they felt it was necessary to nominate three," Peterson said.

Those three are Joe Bob Geis of Vermillion, and Brittney Means and Jon Bahnfleth, both of Norfolk.

Advertisement for ForkFly featuring a sign for ongoing discounts and a grid of logos for participating merchants like Avera, Rita's, slumberland, HyVee, TACO BELL, Jones' Food Center, ACE Hardware, Brunick Furniture, Mom's, Lu Lu's, Raziell's, Kopetsky's, ACE Hardware, Larri's APPLIANCE/ HEATING & COOLING, and FOX RUN.