

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes and drums. In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly three million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years.

Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's day dish. In 2007, roughly **41.5 billion pounds** of U.S. beef and **2.6 billion pounds** of U.S. cabbage were sold. Many St. Patrick's Day celebrants enjoyed corned beef from Texas, which produced **6.8 billion pounds of beef**, and cabbage from California and New York, which produced 581 and 580 million pounds, respectively.

www.history.com

Congress is Looting Federal Worker, Military Retirement Funds

By PRNewswire-USNewswire

As of January 1, 2010, the amount of money owed to federal civilian and military pension trust funds passed the \$1 trillion mark as Congress continues to look all of the federal government's trust funds to pay for deficit spending. More money is now owed by the federal government to these two funds than what is owed to China. "In the future, little kids in kindergarten and their children will have to repay these funds," stated William H. Fruth, founder of the 10 Amendments for Freedom. For the first three months of the 2010 fiscal year (October, November, and December), Congress borrowed more than \$400 billion to pay for its deficits. Of this amount, Congress spent more than \$65 billion of the money which is supposed to be in federal government workers' retirement funds. A trust fund is like a savings account. Money is deposited into the fund to be spent another day, when it is needed. The Social Security Trust Fund is the best-known. However, Congress has spent all of the savings in all of its trust funds. For more information, and for the full article, please visit www.prnewswire.com.

Long Term Care

IHC Financial Group now offers opportunities to be contracted to sell Long Term Care products through Transamerica and John Hancock. For Transamerica, this would require a separate set of paperwork to be completed, even if you are already appointed with Stonebridge and Transamerica. Please contact Elaine Brown for questions or to request a copy of licensing paperwork. In addition, the new IHC Financial Group Federal Employee Benefits Workbook, 2010-2011 Edition, contains a new Long Term Care section as part of the workbook when discussing benefits with your clients. Please contact Kyla Graber to request a copy of the updated Federal Employee Benefits Workbook.

How Can We Help You?

Have you met the IHC Financial Group and Madison National Life Marketing and Administrative Assistants?

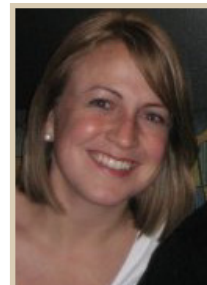
Jamie Wooldridge, Marketing Assistant Madison National Life

Please contact Jamie Wooldridge for any questions with **Madison National Life**. This includes contracting, commissions, new business, promotions with MNL, etc. You can reach her at jaw@madisonlife.com, or at x 2807.



Elaine Brown, Marketing Assistant IHC Financial Group

Please contact Elaine Brown for any questions with **the carriers with IHC Financial Group**. This includes contracting, commissions, new business, promotions with Stonebridge, American Equity, etc. You can reach her at edb@madisonlife.com or at x 2806.



Kyla Graber, Administrative Assistant IHC Financial Group and MNL

Please contact Kyla Graber for **all supply requests for IHC Financial Group and MNL**. You can also contact her for questions on leads. You can reach her at kkg@madisonlife.com or at x 2805.



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Contracting Paperwork Reminder:

Please remember, when you are submitting new contracting paperwork for you or another agent, please be sure to clarify the agent upline, and the commission level the agent is to be contracted at. This applies to Madison National Life, and to all carriers with IHC Financial Group!

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