



**AUSTIN MUTUAL  
INSURANCE COMPANY**

A member of The Main Street America Group



**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Austin Mutual Upgraded to “A” Financial Strength Rating by A.M. Best**

### **Austin Mutual is a member of The Main Street America Group**

MAPLE GROVE, Minn., Jan. 10, 2013 – A.M. Best Company has upgraded the financial strength rating of Main Street America Group affiliate Austin Mutual Insurance Company to “A” (Excellent). A.M. Best also upgraded Maple Grove-based Austin Mutual’s issuer credit rating to “a+.”

These ratings upgrades by A.M. Best are due to the increase in Austin Mutual’s intercompany quota share reinsurance agreement from 35 percent in 2012 to 100 percent as of Jan. 1, 2013, with the lead company of The Main Street America Group, NGM Insurance Company, having become a fully reinsured member.

Austin Mutual now carries the same A.M. Best ratings as the eight other writing companies of Jacksonville, Fla.-based super regional property/casualty insurance carrier Main Street America. These carriers are: NGM Insurance Company, Old Dominion Insurance Company, Main Street America Assurance Company, Grain Dealers Mutual Insurance Company, Great Lakes Casualty Insurance Company, Spring Valley Mutual Insurance Company, MSA Insurance Company, and Main Street America Protection Insurance Company.

Austin Mutual became an affiliate of Main Street America last summer. Since then, Main Street America has rolled out its full suite of commercial lines products to Austin Mutual independent agents in Arizona, Minnesota, and Utah. With the addition of Austin Mutual, Main Street America now writes property/casualty in 36 states and surety and fidelity bonds in 46 states.

**(MORE)**

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#### **About A.M. Best**

Founded in 1899, A.M. Best Company is the world’s oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source. For more information, please visit [www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com).

#### **About The Main Street America Group**

With roots dating back to 1923, The Main Street America Group is a super regional insurance company which writes business through nine property/casualty insurance carriers: NGM Insurance Company, Old Dominion Insurance Company, Main Street America Assurance Company, MSA Insurance Company, Great Lakes Casualty Insurance Company Grain Dealers Mutual Insurance Company, Main Street America Protection Insurance Company, Spring Valley Mutual Insurance Company and Austin Mutual Insurance Company. Based in Jacksonville, Fla., Main Street America offers a wide range of commercial and personal insurance, and fidelity and surety bond products to individuals, families, and businesses throughout the United States.

With nearly \$1 billion in premium written exclusively by 2,000-plus independent insurance agents, the 90-year-old company insures more than 600,000 policyholders in 36 states and writes bonds in 46 states. A.M. Best Company rates The Main Street America Group as an "A" (Excellent). Main Street America is the founding company partner of Trusted Choice®, the branding program of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America. Main Street America is also an investor carrier in the new independent agency system Consumer Agent Portal. For more information about Main Street America, please visit [www.msagroup.com](http://www.msagroup.com) or connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MainStreetAmerica](http://www.facebook.com/MainStreetAmerica).

#### **About Austin Mutual Insurance Company**

Austin Mutual Insurance Company is a regional property casualty insurer headquartered in Maple Grove, Minn.; Austin Mutual has been servicing its customer for more than 110 years and currently operates in thirty-four states throughout the country. Austin Mutual Insurance Company’s dedicated group of professionals provides current and prospective agents exceptional customer service, financial stability, competitive rates and customized products, real time quoting and policy issuance and commercial download. Individuals may obtain more information by calling 800-328-4628 or visiting the company web site at [www.austinmutual.com](http://www.austinmutual.com).