

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO
Form PRE 14A
April 17, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant
Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held June 15, 2012

Dear Stockholders:

We cordially invite you to attend the 2012 annual meeting of the stockholders of Independence Holding Company (IHC or the Company). The meeting will take place at the Omni Berkshire Place, located at 21st Street, New York, New York 10022 on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time.

Details regarding admission to the meeting and the business to be conducted are described in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) you received in the mail. We have also made available a copy of our 2011 Annual Report with this proxy statement. We encourage you to read our Annual Report. It includes our audited financial statements and provides information about our business and products.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. elect seven directors, each for a term of one year;
2. ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as IHC 's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012;
3. further amend the certificate of incorporation, as amended (the Certificate), to increase the (i) aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock from 20,100,00 shares to 23,100,000 shares and (ii) number of authorized shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, from 20,000,000 shares to 23,000,000 shares; and
4. transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 18, 2012 may vote at the meeting or any postponements or adjournments of the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Adam C. Vandervoort
Secretary

April [], 2012

HOW TO VOTE: Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we hope you will vote as soon as possible. You may vote over the Internet, as well as by telephone or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, by mailing a proxy or voting instruction card or voting on the Internet. Please review the instructions on each of your voting options described in this proxy statement as well as in the Notice you received in the mail.

2012 PROXY STATEMENT

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Independence Holding Company

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2012 PROXY STATEMENT

IHC's Board of Directors (the Board) is furnishing you this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies on its behalf for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The meeting will take place at the Omni Berkshire Place, located at 21 E. 52nd Street, New York, New York 10022 on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time. At the meeting, stockholders will vote on the on the following proposals:

the election of the seven directors;

the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as IHC's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and

the further amendment of the certificate of incorporation, as amended (the Certificate), to increase the (i) aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock from 20,100,00 shares to 23,100,000 shares and (ii) number of authorized shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, from 20,000,000 shares to 23,000,000 shares.

Stockholders also will consider any other matter that may properly come before the meeting, although we know of no other business to be presented.

By submitting your proxy (via the Internet, telephone or mail), you authorize Mr. Adam C. Vandervoort, IHC's Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, and Ms. Teresa A. Herbert, IHC's Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, to represent you and vote your shares at the meeting in accordance with your instructions. They also may vote your shares to adjourn the meeting and will be authorized to vote your shares at any postponements or adjournments of the meeting.

IHC's 2011 Annual Report, which includes IHC's audited financial statements, is being made available to IHC's stockholders concurrent herewith. Although the Annual Report is being made available concurrent with this proxy statement, it does not constitute a part of the proxy solicitation materials and is not incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

We are first making this proxy statement and accompanying materials available to stockholders on or about April 27, 2012.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE PROMPTLY VOTE YOUR SHARES OVER THE INTERNET, BY TELEPHONE OR BY MAIL.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

At the annual meeting, the stockholders will be asked to:

elect seven directors, each for a term of one year;

ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP (KPMG) as IHC 's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and

further amend the certificate of incorporation, as amended (the Certificate), to increase the (i) aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock from 20,100,00 shares to 23,100,000 shares and (ii) number of authorized shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, from 20,000,000 shares to 23,000,000 shares.

Stockholders also will transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting. Members of IHC 's management team will be present at the meeting to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

Who is entitled to vote?

The record date for the meeting is April 18, 2012. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to vote at the meeting. The only class of stock entitled to be voted at the meeting is IHC common stock. Each outstanding share of common stock is entitled to one vote for all matters before the meeting. At the close of business on the record date, there were [_____] shares of IHC common stock outstanding.

Why did I receive a notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

In accordance with rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we may now furnish proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our 2011 Annual Report, to our stockholders by providing access to such documents on the Internet instead of mailing printed copies. If you received a Notice by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials. Most stockholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless they request them. Instead, the Notice, which was mailed to most of our stockholders, will instruct you as to how you may access and review all of the proxy materials on the Internet. The Notice also instructs you as to how you may submit your proxy on the Internet. If you would like to receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials in the Notice. If you vote by Internet or telephone, please do not mail your proxy card.

How do I vote by proxy?

You may vote by proxy using the Internet or telephone by following the instructions on your Notice. If you requested a printed set of materials, you may also vote by mail by signing, dating and returning the proxy card.

Please note that there are separate telephone and Internet arrangements depending on whether you are a registered stockholder (that is, if you hold your stock in your own name) or you hold your shares in street name (that is, in the name of a brokerage firm or bank that holds your securities account). In either case, you must follow the procedures described on your Notice.

Am I entitled to vote if my shares are held in street name ?

If your shares are held by a bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name. If your shares are held in street name, the proxy materials are being made available to you by your bank, brokerage firm or other nominee (the record holder), along with voting instructions. As the

beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your record holder how to vote your shares, and the record holder is required to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions. If you do not give instructions to your bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, it will nevertheless be entitled to vote your shares in its discretion on the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2), but not on the election of directors (Proposal 1) or the amendment of the certificate of incorporation to increase the aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock and the number of authorized shares of common stock (Proposal 3).

As the beneficial owner of shares, you are invited to attend the annual meeting. If you are a beneficial owner, however, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you obtain a legal proxy, executed in your favor, from the record holder of your shares.

How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?

A quorum must be present at the meeting for any business to be conducted. The presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum. Proxies received but marked as abstentions or treated as broker non-votes will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present at the meeting.

What if a quorum is not present at the meeting?

If a quorum is not present or represented at the meeting, the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting who are present in person or represented by proxy, or the chairman of the meeting, may adjourn the meeting until a quorum is present or represented. The time and place of the adjourned meeting will be announced at the time the adjournment is taken, and no other notice will be given.

How can I vote my shares in person at the meeting?

Shares held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted by you in person at the meeting. Shares held beneficially in street name may be voted by you in person at the meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank, trustee or nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

How can I vote my shares without attending the meeting?

Whether you hold shares directly as the stockholder of record or beneficially in street name, you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by proxy. You can vote by proxy over the Internet or telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice, or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, you can also vote by mail pursuant to instructions provided on the proxy card. If you hold shares beneficially in street name, you may also vote by proxy over the Internet or telephone by following the instructions provided in the Notice, or, if you requested to receive printed proxy materials, you can also vote by mail by following the voting instruction card provided to you by your broker, bank, trustee or nominee.

Can I revoke my proxy and change my vote?

You may change your vote at any time prior to the taking of the vote at the meeting. If you are the stockholder of record, you may change your vote by (1) granting a new proxy bearing a later date (which automatically revokes the earlier proxy) using any of the methods described above (and until the applicable deadline for each method), (2) providing a written notice of revocation to IHC's Corporate Secretary at Independence Holding Company, 485 Madison Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10022 prior to your shares being voted, or (3) attending the meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the meeting will not cause your previously granted proxy to be revoked unless you specifically so request. For shares you hold beneficially in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank, trustee or nominee following the instructions they provided, or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, bank, trustee or nominee giving you the right to vote your

shares, by attending the meeting and voting in person.

Who can attend the meeting?

Only stockholders eligible to vote or their authorized representatives will be admitted to the meeting. If your shares are held in street name, you must bring the indicated portion of your voting instruction card. Alternatively, you may bring other proof of ownership, such as your most recent brokerage account statement, which clearly shows your ownership of IHC common stock as of the record date. In addition, you must bring valid government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport, and a legal proxy from your broker, bank, trustee or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares in person at the meeting.

Will my vote be kept confidential?

Yes, your vote will be kept confidential and not disclosed to IHC unless:

required by law;

you expressly request disclosure on your proxy; or

there is a proxy contest.

Who will count the votes?

Broadridge Financial Solutions, an independent third party, will tabulate and certify the votes. A representative of Broadridge Financial Solutions will serve as the inspector of election.

How does the Board of Directors recommend I vote on the proposals?

Your Board recommends that you vote:

FOR the election of the seven nominees to the Board of Directors;

FOR the ratification of the appointment of KPMG as IHC's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and

FOR the amendment of the certificate of incorporation to increase the aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock and the number of authorized shares of common stock.

What if I do not specify how my shares are to be voted?

If you submit a proxy but do not indicate any voting instructions, your shares will be voted:

FOR the election of the seven nominees to the Board of Directors;

FOR the ratification of the appointment of KPMG as IHC's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012; and

FOR the amendment of the certificate of incorporation to increase the aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock and the number of authorized shares of common stock.

Will any other business be conducted at the meeting?

IHC's by-laws require stockholders to give advance notice of any proposal intended to be presented at the meeting. The deadline for this notice has passed and we have not received any such notices. If any other matter

properly comes before the stockholders for a vote at the meeting, however, the proxy holders will vote your shares in accordance with their best judgment.

How many votes are required to elect the director nominees?

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting is required to elect the seven nominees as directors. This means that the seven nominees will be elected if they receive more affirmative votes than any other person. If you vote **Withheld** with respect to one or more nominees, your shares will not be voted with respect to the person or persons indicated.

What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?

If a nominee is unable to stand for election, the Board may either reduce the number of directors to be elected or select a substitute nominee. If a substitute nominee is selected, the proxy holders will vote your shares for the substitute nominee, unless you have withheld authority.

How many votes are required to ratify the appointment of IHC's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012?

The ratification of the appointment of KPMG as IHC's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present at the meeting in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.

How many votes are required to further amend the Certificate of Incorporation to increase the aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock from 20,100,000 shares to 23,100,000 shares, and the number of authorized shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, from 20,000,000 shares to 23,000,000 shares?

The further amendment of the certificate of incorporation to increase the aggregate number of authorized shares of capital stock and the number of authorized shares of common stock requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote thereon.

How will abstentions be treated?

Abstentions will be treated as shares present for quorum purposes and entitled to vote, and will have the same practical effect as votes against a proposal.

How will broker non-votes be treated?

Broker non-votes will be treated as shares present for quorum purposes. Your broker will be entitled to vote your shares in its discretion on the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012 (Proposal 2), without your voting instructions, but not on the other two proposals.

STOCK OWNERSHIP**Directors and Executive Officers**

The following table sets forth the amount of IHC common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, beneficially owned by each director or nominee, each named executive officer included in the Summary Compensation Table on page 24, and all directors, nominees and executive officers as a group, as of March 31, 2012. The amounts set forth below include the ten percent stock dividend that IHC distributed to its stockholders on March 5, 2012. Unless otherwise indicated, beneficial ownership is direct and the person indicated has sole voting and investment power.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Number of Option Shares</u>	<u>Percent of Class</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Mr. Bernon R. Erickson, Jr.	140,379	34,833	*	
Mr. Larry R. Graber	45,285	45,833	*	
Ms. Teresa A. Herbert	57,187	59,033	*	
Mr. David T. Kettig	77,504	62,700	*	
Mr. Allan C. Kirkman	17,226 (3)	3,267	*	
Mr. John L. Lahey	13,200 (3)	--	*	
Mr. Steven B. Lapin	122,162	--	*	
Mr. Jeffrey C. Smedsrud	86,414	53,167	*	
Mr. James G. Tatum	38,014 (3)	3,267	*	
Mr. Roy T.K. Thung	313,600	199,833	2.82%	
All directors, nominees for director and executive officers as a group (13 persons)	941,452	499,334	7.78%	

(1)

Reflects the number of shares that could be acquired on March 31, 2012 or within sixty days thereafter through the exercise of stock options. The shares are excluded from the column headed Number of Shares, but included in the ownership percentages reported in the column headed Percent of Class.

(2)

Based on 18,008,947 shares outstanding on March 31, 2012, and assuming the exercise and issuance of options reported in the table, as applicable to the calculation.

(3)

Includes 3,300 shares of unvested restricted stock.

*

Represents less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires directors and certain officers of IHC and persons who own more than ten percent (10%) of IHC common stock to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) initial reports of beneficial ownership (Form 3) and reports of subsequent changes in their beneficial ownership (Form 4 or Form 5) of IHC s common stock. Such directors, officers and greater-than-ten-percent stockholders are required to furnish IHC with copies of the Section 16(a) reports they file. The SEC has established specific due dates for these reports, and IHC is required to disclose in this proxy statement any late filings or failures to file.

Based solely upon a review of the copies of the Section 16(a) reports (and any amendments thereto) furnished to IHC and written representations from certain reporting persons that no additional reports were required, IHC believes that its directors, reporting officers and greater-than-ten-percent stockholders complied with all these filing requirements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, except for the Form 4 that Mr. Tatum filed in December of 2011 that was late due to an administrative oversight.

Significant Stockholders

The following table lists certain persons known by IHC to own beneficially more than five percent of the outstanding shares of IHC common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, as of March 31, 2012. The amounts set forth below include the ten percent stock dividend that IHC distributed to its stockholders on March 5, 2012. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with applicable rules of the SEC. Except as set forth below, and to the best knowledge of IHC, no other person (or persons acting in concert) owns beneficially more than 5% of IHC's common stock.

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Percentage of Outstanding Shares Beneficially Owned</u>
Geneve Holdings, Inc., 96 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902 (1)	9,137,892	50.74%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, Palisades West, Building 1, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78746 (2)	947,538	5.26%

(1)

According to (i) information disclosed in Amendment No. 35 to Schedule 13D dated May 9, 2001 of Geneve Holdings, Inc. (GHI), a private diversified holding company, supplemented by (ii) information provided to IHC by GHI in response to a questionnaire. GHI is a financial services holding company and is a member of a group consisting of itself and certain of its affiliates that together hold the shares of common stock of IHC.

(2)

According to information disclosed in Schedule 13G, reporting as of December 31, 2011. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, as amended, that furnishes investment advice to four investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and serves as investment manager to certain other commingled group trusts and separate accounts (such investment companies, trusts and accounts, collectively referred to as the Funds). In its role as investment advisor, sub-adviser and/or manager, neither Dimensional Fund Advisors LP nor its subsidiaries possess voting and/or investment power over the securities of IHC that are owned by the Funds. All the shares of IHC are owned by the Funds and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Corporate Governance Documents

In furtherance of its longstanding goals of providing effective governance of IHC's business and affairs for the long-term benefit of stockholders and promoting a culture and reputation of the highest ethics, integrity and reliability, IHC's Board has adopted:

·
a Code of Ethics that applies to IHC's Chief Executive Officer and President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, controller and other IHC employees performing similar functions (the Code of Ethics);

·
a Corporate Code of Conduct that applies to all employees, officers and directors of IHC and its subsidiaries and affiliates (the Code of Conduct);

·
Corporate Governance Guidelines (Guidelines) to advance the functioning of the Board and its committees and set forth the Board's expectations as to how it should perform its functions; and

·
written charters for its Audit and Compensation Committees of the Board (the Charters).

The Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, the Guidelines and the Charters can be found on IHC's website at www.ihcgroup.com, and are also available in print to any stockholder who requests them. The information on IHC's website, however, is not incorporated by reference in, and does not form part of, this proxy statement. The Board does not anticipate modifying the Code of Ethics or the Code of Conduct, or granting any waivers to either, but were any such waiver or modification to occur, it would promptly be disclosed on IHC's website.

Director Independence

As a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), IHC uses as its definition of independence the independence standards prescribed in the NYSE Listed Company Manual (the Manual). Each of Messrs. Kirkman, Tatum and Lahey met such independence requirements. The Board has affirmatively determined that none of them had any material relationship with IHC at all applicable times during 2011.

IHC qualifies as a controlled company, as defined in Section 303A.00 of the Manual, because more than 50% of IHC s voting power is held by Geneve Holdings, Inc. (GHI). Therefore, IHC is not subject to certain NYSE requirements that would otherwise require IHC to have: (i) a majority of independent directors on the Board (Manual Section 303A.01); (ii) compensation of IHC s executive officers determined by a compensation committee composed solely of independent directors (Manual Section 303A.04); or (iii) director nominees selected, or recommended for the Board s selection, by a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors (Manual Section 303A.05).

Of IHC s directors, none of Messrs. Lapin, Graber, Kettig and Thung is independent under the NYSE s standards.

For each independent director, after reasonable investigations and in reliance on representations by such independent director to IHC, IHC believes there is no transaction, relationship, or arrangement between each such director not disclosed under the caption Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.

Board Leadership Structure

The Board understands that there is no single, generally accepted approach to providing Board leadership and that given the dynamic and competitive environment in which we operate, the right Board leadership structure may vary as circumstances warrant. To this end, the Board has no policy mandating the combination or separation of the roles of Chairman and CEO and believes the matter should be discussed and considered from time to time as

circumstances change. Currently, Mr. Roy T.K. Thung is both our CEO and Chairman.

Board Role in Risk Oversight

The Board administers its risk oversight function directly and through its Audit Committee. The Board and the Audit Committee regularly discuss with management, and the Company's independent auditors and internal auditor, our major risk exposures, their potential financial impact on the Company, and the steps we take to manage these risks.

In general, management is responsible for the day-to-day management of the risks the Company faces, while the Board, acting as a whole and through the Audit Committee, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. In its risk oversight role, the Board has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes designed and implemented by management are adequate and functioning as designed. Senior management attends the regular quarterly meetings of the Board and is available to address questions and concerns raised by the Board on risk management-related and other matters.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to risk management in the areas of financial reporting, internal controls and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, the Audit Committee discusses policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management with management, internal audit and the independent auditors.

The Audit Committee assists the Board with oversight of risk management by reviewing the Company's financial statements and meeting with the Company's independent auditors and internal auditor at regularly scheduled meetings of the Audit Committee, to review their reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal audit and internal control systems and discusses with management the Company's major financial risks and exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such risks and exposures.

Audit Committee Financial Expert

The Board has determined that at least one member of the Audit Committee, Mr. Tatum, is an audit committee financial expert as such term is defined in Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC.

Executive Sessions of Non-Management Directors

Non-management Board members meet without management present at least twice annually, at regularly scheduled executive sessions. At least once a year, such meetings include only the independent members of the Board. Mr. Kirkman presides over meetings of the non-employee and independent directors.

Communications with Directors

You may communicate directly with any member or committee of the Board by writing to: IHC Board of Directors, c/o Corporate Secretary, 485 Madison Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10022. Please specify to whom your letter should be directed. The Corporate Secretary of IHC will review all such correspondence and regularly forward to the Board a summary of all such correspondence and copies of all correspondence that, in his opinion, deals with the functions of the Board or its committees or that he otherwise determines requires the attention of any member, group or committee of the Board. Board members may, at any time, review a log of all correspondence received by IHC that is addressed to Board members and request copies of any such correspondence.

Interested parties who wish to communicate with non-management IHC directors, or with the presiding director of the Board's executive sessions, may do so by writing to IHC Board of Directors, c/o Corporate Secretary, Attn: Non-management Directors or the Presiding Director for executive sessions, as applicable, 485 Madison Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10022. All such mail received will first be opened and screened for security purposes.

Nomination of Director Candidates

In light of GHI's majority voting power, the Board has determined that the Board, rather than a nominating committee, is the most appropriate body to identify director candidates and select nominees for presentation at the annual meeting of stockholders. In making nominations, the Board seeks candidates with outstanding business experience who will bring such experience to the management and direction of IHC. The minimum criteria employed by the Board in its selection of candidates is set forth in the Guidelines, along with certain other factors that inform the selection process. All directors serving on the Board participate in the consideration of director nominees. Furthermore, in light of GHI's voting power, the Board has determined that no policy with respect to consideration of candidates recommended by security holders other than GHI's would be appropriate.

The Board does not have a formal policy with respect to diversity. However, the Board seeks to have a Board that reflects an appropriate balance of knowledge, experience, skills, expertise and diversity, as applicable to our industry. The Board assesses its achievement of diversity through the review of Board composition as part of the Board's annual self-assessment process.

MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings

During 2011, the Board and its committees held nine formal meetings. Each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate of: (i) the total number of meetings of the Board; and (ii) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which he served, during the applicable period.

Committees

The Board has standing Audit and Compensation Committees. Committee memberships are as follows:

Audit Committee

Compensation Committee

Mr. James G. Tatum (Chairman)

Mr. Allan C. Kirkman (Chairman)

Mr. Allan C. Kirkman

Mr. John L. Lahey

Mr. John L. Lahey

Mr. James G. Tatum

Audit Committee. The principal functions of the Audit Committee are to: (i) select an independent registered public accounting firm; (ii) review and approve management's plan for engaging IHC's independent registered public accounting firm during the year to perform non-audit services and consider what effect these services will have on the independence of IHC's independent registered public accounting firm; (iii) review IHC's annual financial statements and other financial reports which require approval by the Board; (iv) oversee the integrity of IHC's financial statements, IHC's systems of disclosure controls and internal controls over financial reporting and IHC's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (v) review the scope of audit plans of IHC's internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm and the results of their audits; and (vi) evaluate the performance of IHC's internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm.

The Audit Committee met four times during 2011. Each of its members meets the independence requirements of the NYSE and applicable SEC rules and regulations. The Audit Committee and the Board have determined that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate and that Mr. Tatum qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as such term is defined in Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities with regard to compensation matters, is responsible for determining or ratifying (as the case may be) the compensation of IHC's executive officers and administers IHC's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee met one time during 2011. The Compensation Committee has sole authority to determine the compensation for IHC's Chief Executive Officer and President.

Attendance at Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Each IHC director is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Were an IHC director unable to attend the meeting, IHC would endeavor to arrange for the director's participation by teleconference. At last year's annual meeting, every IHC director attended in person.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Except for Messrs. Graber, Kettig and Thung, who serve as (and are nominated to continue as) IHC directors, set forth below is information about each executive officer of IHC, including such officer's name, age, all positions and offices held with IHC and its material affiliates and principal occupations and business experience during the past five years.

IHC's officers are elected by the Board, each to serve until his or her successor is elected and has qualified, or until his or her earlier resignation, removal from office or death.

Mr. Gary J. Balzofiore, 54

Corporate Vice President Accounting and Finance

Since March 2012, Corporate Vice President Accounting and Finance; since March 2012, Corporate Vice President Accounting and Finance of American Independence Corp. (AMIC); for more than the past five years, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York, a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC (Standard Security); for more than the past five years, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Independence American Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMIC (Independence American).

Mr. Bernon R. Erickson, Jr., 51

Chief Health Actuary and Senior Vice President

For more than the past five years, Chief Health Actuary and Senior Vice President; since June 2007, Chief Health Actuary and Senior Vice President of AMIC; since April 2007, Chief Executive Officer of Actuarial Management Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC; from April 2007 to March 2012, President of Actuarial Management Corporation; since March 2012, Chief Executive Officer and President of IHC Health Holdings Corp. (IHC HH) and IHC Health Solutions, Inc. (IHC HS), both wholly owned subsidiaries of IHC; from April 2009 to March 2012, Co-President of IHC HH.

Ms. Teresa A. Herbert, 50

Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President

For more than the past five years, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President; for more than the past five years, Vice President of Geneve Corporation (Geneve), a private company controlled by GHI; for more than the past five years, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of AMIC; since March 2011, a director of AMIC.

Mr. Michael Kemp, 51

Chief Underwriting Officer and Senior Vice President

Since March 2012, Chief Underwriting Officer and Senior Vice President; since March 2012, President of IHC Risk Solutions, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC; for more than the last five years, President of ReAct Consulting International, Inc.

Mr. Jeffrey C. Smedsrud, 53

Chief Marketing and Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President

For more than the past five years, Chief Marketing and Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President; since March 2012, President of AMIC; from June 2007 until March 2012, Chief Marketing Officer and Senior Vice President of AMIC; for more than the past five years, a director of Independence American; since April 2008, Chief Executive Officer of Independent Producers of America, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMIC; since March 2012, Chief Executive Officer and President of IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of AMIC; from January 2007 until March 2012, Chief Executive Officer and President of IHC HS; from April 2009 to March 2012, Co-President of IHC HH.

Mr. Adam C. Vandervoort, 37

Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Since March 2012, Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; since March 2012, Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of AMIC; for more than five years prior thereto, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of IHC and AMIC; for more than the past five years, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of each of Standard Security, Independence American and Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC; for more than the past five years, a director of Independence American. Mr. Vandervoort is licensed to practice law in the states of California, Connecticut, New York and Tennessee.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Messrs. Kirkman, Lahey and Tatum served on the Compensation Committee of the Board during fiscal year 2011.

Transactions with Management and Other Relationships

With GHI

IHC and GHI, IHC's controlling stockholder, operate under cost-sharing arrangements pursuant to which certain items are allocated between the two companies. During 2011, IHC paid GHI (or accrued for payment thereto) approximately \$482,000 under such arrangements, and paid or accrued approximately an additional \$131,000 for the first quarter of 2012. Such cost-sharing arrangements include GHI's providing IHC with the use of office space as IHC's corporate headquarters for annual consideration of \$162,000 in 2011. The foregoing arrangement is subject to the annual review and approval of the Audit Committee, and IHC's management believes that the terms thereof are no less favorable than could be obtained by IHC from unrelated parties on an arm's-length basis.

With Southern Life and Health Insurance Company

Southern Life and Health Insurance Company (Southern) is controlled by GHI. During 2011, IHC and its subsidiaries paid \$37,880 to Southern in connection with Southern's lease of real property to a subsidiary of IHC and provision of certain administrative services, and paid or accrued in respect thereof approximately an additional \$6,550 for the first quarter of 2012.

Review, Approval, or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons

Section 5.7 of IHC's by-laws provide that no contract or transaction between IHC and one or more of its directors or officers (or their affiliates) is *per se* void (or voidable) if, among other things, the material facts as to the relevant relationships and interests were disclosed to the Board (or the relevant committee thereof) and the transaction in question was approved by a majority of the disinterested directors voting on the matter. The Audit Committee's charter requires the Audit Committee to review and approve all interested-party transactions, and IHC's other

governance documents specifically prohibit various conflicts of interest and impose disclosure requirements in connection with any potential conflict of interest.

The Audit Committee, with the assistance of IHC's Corporate Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, has reviewed and approved each of the related-party transactions set forth above. IHC is not aware of any transaction reportable under paragraph (a) of Item 404 of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in respect of 2011, that was not so reviewed and approved.

PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board currently consists of seven members. All of IHC's directors are elected at each annual meeting of stockholders and hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders. The Board proposes that each of the seven current directors be reelected to the Board. Each of the directors elected at this annual meeting will hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2012 and until his successor is duly elected and qualified. The Company believes that its Board as a whole should encompass a range of talent, skill, diversity, and expertise enabling it to provide sound guidance with respect to the Company's operations and interests. In addition to considering a candidate's background and accomplishments, candidates are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the Board and the evolving needs of our businesses.

Each nominee has consented to being named in this proxy statement and has agreed to serve if elected. If a nominee is unable to stand for election, the Board may either reduce the number of directors to be elected or select a substitute nominee. If a substitute nominee is selected, the proxy holders will vote your shares for the substitute nominee, unless you have withheld authority.

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting is required to elect the seven nominees as directors. This means that the seven nominees will be elected if they receive more affirmative votes than any other person.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE SEVEN NOMINEES.

The following table sets forth, with respect to each nominee, his name, age, principal occupation, employment during at least the past five years, the year he was first elected an IHC director and directorships held in other public companies.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

**Director, Year First
Elected as Director**

Principal Occupation,

Age

Business and Directorships and Qualifications

Mr. Larry R.
Graber

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Since March 2012, Chief Life and Annuity Actuary and Senior Vice President of IHC; for more than five years, prior thereto, Senior Vice President Life and Annuities of IHC; for more than the past five years, a director and President of Madison National Life

2000 Insurance Company, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC; for more than the past five years, a director and President of Southern Life and Health Insurance Company, an insurance company and wholly owned subsidiary of GHI with principal offices in Homewood, Alabama; for more than the past five years, a director of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Graber should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Graber has extensive experience in many facets of the insurance business, particularly relating to the acquisition and administration of blocks of life insurance.

Mr. Allan C. Kirkman 68 For more than the past five years, a member of each of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee; since March 2011, Chairman of the Audit Committee. For more than five years prior to his retirement in October 2005, Executive Vice President of Mellon Bank, N.A., a national bank.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Kirkman should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Kirkman has extensive experience in diverse, complex businesses and transactions, including involving public companies in the financial services fields.

David T. Kettig 53 Since April 2009, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of IHC; from January 2006 to April 2009, Co-Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of IHC; from April 2009 to March 2012, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of AMIC; from June 2007 to April 2008, Co-Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of AMIC; from November 2002 to June 2007, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of AMIC; since March 2011, a director of AMIC; for more than the past five years, President of Independence American Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMIC; since March 2012, President of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Kettig should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

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Mr. Kettig has extensive experience in diverse, complex businesses and transactions, corporate governance, risk management and insurance. Mr. Kettig also previously served as the General Counsel of IHC.

Mr. John L. Lahey 65 For more than the past five years, a member of the Audit Committee; since March 2011, a member of the Compensation Committee; since March 1987, President of Quinnipiac University, a private university located in Hamden, Connecticut; since 1995, a member of the Board of Trustees of Yale-New Haven Hospital, a hospital located in New Haven, Connecticut; since 1994, a director of the UIL Holdings Corporation, a publicly held utility holding company with principal offices in New Haven, Connecticut; since 2004, a director of Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy, the only national non-profit organization committed exclusively to cancer gene and cell therapy research; since June 2006, a director of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York. Mr. Lahey also serves as a director and Vice Chairman of the Board of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, Inc.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Lahey should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Lahey has extensive executive experience in major organizations and has valuable expertise in management and corporate governance.

Mr. Steven B. Lapin 66 For more than the past five years, Vice Chairman of IHC's Board; since March 2011, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Geneve; for more than five years prior to March 2011, President and Chief Operating Officer and a director of Geneve; for more than the past five years, a director of The Aristotle Corporation, a private company controlled by GHI (Aristotle); for more than the past five years prior to March 2011, President and Chief Operating Officer of Aristotle; since March 2011, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Aristotle; since March 2011, a director of AMIC; for more than the past five years, a director of Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc.; for more than the past five years, a director of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Lapin should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Lapin has extensive experience in diverse, complex businesses and transactions, corporate governance of public companies, risk management and insurance.

James G. Tatum, C.F.A. 70 Since June 2002, Chairman of the Audit Committee; for more than the past five years, member of the Compensation Committee; for more than the past five years, a director of

2000

Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York; for more than the past five years, sole proprietor of J. Tatum Capital, LLC, a registered investment advisor, located in Birmingham, Alabama, managing funds primarily for individual and trust clients; Chartered Financial Analyst for more than twenty-five years; since March 2011, a director of AMIC; since March 2011, a member of the Audit Committee of AMIC.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Tatum should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Tatum has extensive executive experience in major organizations and has valuable expertise with financial issues, risk management and oversight

Roy T.K. Thung

68

1990

Since March 2011, Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of IHC; since January 2000, Chief Executive Officer of IHC; since July 1999, President of IHC; for more than five years prior to July 1999, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of IHC; for more than the past five years, Executive Vice President of Geneve; for more than the past five years, a director of Aristotle; since July 2002, a director of AMIC; from November 2002 until March 2012, Chief Executive Officer and President of AMIC; since March 2012, Chief Executive Officer of AMIC; for more than the past five years, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York; for more than the past five years, Chairman of the Board of Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc.

The experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that Mr. Thung should serve as one of IHC's directors are described as follows:

Mr. Thung has extensive experience in diverse, complex businesses and transactions, including involving public companies in the insurance industry.

DIRECTORS COMPENSATION

The general policy of the Board is that compensation for independent directors should be a mix of cash and equity. IHC does not pay management directors for board service in addition to their regular employee compensation. The Compensation Committee has the primary responsibility for reviewing and considering any revisions to director compensation.

During 2012, each non-employee (outside) director will be paid:

an annual retainer of \$36,000;

\$1,500 for each board or committee meeting attended;

\$9,000 for service as chairman of a board committee; and

2,475 restricted shares of IHC common stock, vesting ratably over the three annual anniversaries of the award, and contingent upon continuing service as a director.

The following table summarizes compensation paid to IHC's directors during 2011, except for Mr. Roy T.K. Thung, IHC's Chief Executive Officer and President, and Mr. David T. Kettig, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President, for whom compensation is more fully described beginning on page 24 of this proxy statement.

Director Summary Compensation

Name	Fees Earned	Stock	Total
	or Paid	Awards	(\$)
	in Cash	\$(1)	
	(\$)		

Mr. Larry R. Graber (2)	.	--	--	--
Mr. Allan C. Kirkman		\$45,300	\$8,900	\$54,200
Mr. John L. Lahey	.	\$40,400	\$8,900	\$49,300
Mr. Steven B. Lapin (2)		--	--	--
Mr. James G. Tatum	.	\$47,800	\$8,900	\$56,700

(1)

Represents amounts expensed for financial statement reporting purposes. The grant date fair value of the stock awards during 2011 to Messrs. Kirkman, Lahey and Tatum was, in each case, \$24,344.

(2)

Messrs. Graber and Lapin received no compensation in connection with their service as IHC directors during 2011.