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## **For Immediate Release**

### **American Fraternal Alliance Board Announces New Leadership**

INDIANAPOLIS – December 2022 – The American Fraternal Alliance announces that Craig Van Dyke was elected Chair of the Board unanimously by members of the board during the 2022 Annual Meeting held on September 14-16, 2022, in Washington, DC.

“The Alliance and its member societies welcome Craig Van Dyke as our new Chair of the Board,” said Alliance Chief Executive Officer Allison Koppel. “As President of BetterLife, his skillful leadership at the helm of a very successful fraternal merger demonstrated the strength of mid-sized societies. His society is at the forefront of innovative approaches to financial services, fintech integration, and fraternal member engagement. Craig understands what it takes to lead a fraternal benefit society in a rapidly changing financial services marketplace while preserving fraternal heritage.”

As Chair of the Board, Van Dyke will provide strategic direction to the association as it represents over 50 fraternal benefit societies with policyholders in all US states and Canada. Fraternal benefit societies are not-for-profit membership organizations offering volunteer, social, and networking opportunities, along with insurance and other financial products.

Van Dyke serves as President of BetterLife, a fraternal benefit society headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. He played an integral role on the leadership team that oversaw the successful merger of Western Fraternal Life and National Mutual Benefit. Van Dyke is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and has a Fellow Life Management Institute designation. He has over 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, primarily in investment management.

John Borgen, President and CEO of Catholic Financial Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was elected to the Alliance board of directors by the delegates of the Alliance at the same meeting. Borgen will fill the Director seat vacated by Bill O’Toole, his predecessor at Catholic Financial Life, whose term ends at the end of this year. Borgen began his fraternal career in 2009 as Catholic Financial Life’s Fraternal Director

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and worked his way up to an executive leadership role. He was named President and Chief Executive Officer in 2022. “We are excited to have John Borgen join the Board of Directors as one of the newest leaders in the fraternal system,” said Allison Koppel, CEO of the American Fraternal Alliance. “John represents a new generation of executive leadership within our industry – as a longtime fraternal employee, father of three young children, and a Millennial, he brings a fresh take on fraternalism that is most welcome on the Board and will see us into the future.”

Serving alongside Van Dyke are members of the American Fraternal Alliance Board of Directors:

Vice Chair, Bill Hunt, CEO, GBU Financial Life

Patrick T. Mason, Secretary Treasurer, Supreme Secretary, Knights of Columbus

Immediate Past President Greg Temple, President & CEO, Catholic Order of Foresters

Michael Ahles, President, CEO & Chair of the Board, Catholic United Financial

Nick Benoit, Chief Operating Officer, Royal Arcanum

Lester L. Bohnert, General Counsel, Modern Woodmen of America

John Sharp, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, WoodmenLife

Sharon Brosnan, Vice President of Government Affairs, Thrivent

Theresa Kluchinski, President, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

Chris Martin, National President, Woman’s Life Insurance Society

John Borgen, President and CEO, Catholic Financial Life

Louis Gagnon, President and CEO, Foresters Financial

### **About the American Fraternal Alliance**

The [American Fraternal Alliance](#) represents over 50 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Fraternal benefit societies are not-for-profit membership groups that unite individuals with a common bond, provide them the ability to secure their families’ financial security through a variety of life insurance and investment products, and form one of the nation’s most effective and efficient volunteer networks, delivering billions of dollars of direct financial aid and community service to those who need it most.

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