FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO Form 10-K

March 16, 2015

# <u>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION</u> WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

Annual Report under Section 13 or 15(d) of t	he Securities Act of 19	34
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014		
or		
Transition Report under Section 13 or 15(d) o	f the Securities Exchan	ge Act of 1934
For the transition period ofto		
Commission file number: 0-2500111		
Federated National Holding Company		
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its Cha	rter)	
Florida		65-0248866
(State or other jurisdiction of incorpor	ration or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No)
	treet, Suite 180, Sunrisonal executive offices)	•
Registrant's telephone number, including area c	ode <u>800-293-25</u>	32
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of	of the Exchange Act:	
Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchai	nge on Which
	Registered	
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	NASDAQ Global Ma	ırket
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of None	of the Exchange Act:	
Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a we Act. Yes No	ll-known seasoned issue	er, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities
Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not re	equired to file reports p	oursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has electronically submitted and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates was \$265,407,621 on June 30, 2014, computed on the basis of the closing sale price of the Registrant's common stock on that date.

As of March 10, 2015, the total number of common shares outstanding of Registrant's common stock was 14,155,256.

# DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None.		

# Federated National Holding Company

# Table of Contents

PART I		3
ITEM 1	BUSINESS	3
ITEM 1A	RISK FACTORS	23
ITEM 1B	UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS	35
ITEM 2	<u>PROPERTIES</u>	35
ITEM 3	LEGAL PROCEEDINGS	35
ITEM 4	MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES	35
PART II		36
ITEM 5	MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES	36
ITEM 6	SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA	39
ITEM 7	MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS	41
ITEM 7A	QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK	70
ITEM 8	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA	71
ITEM 9	CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE	114
ITEM 9A	CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES	114
ITEM 9B	OTHER INFORMATION	115
PART III		115
ITEM 10	DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	115
ITEM 11	EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	119
ITEM 12	SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS	126
ITEM 13	CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE	127

ITEM 14	PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES	127
PART IV		129
ITEM 15	EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES	129
SIGNATURES		133
- 2 -		

<u>Table of Contents</u> Federated National Holding Company

#### PART I

#### CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These statements are therefore entitled to the protection of the safe harbor provisions of these laws. These statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "anticipate," "believe," "budget," "contemplate," "continue," "could," "envision," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "guidance," "indicate," "might," "outlook," "plan," "possibly," "potential," "predict," "probably," "pro-forma," "project," "seek," "should," "target," " be," "will continue" or the negative thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections. While we believe these expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections are reasonable, such forward-looking statements are only predictions and involve a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control. These and other important factors may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Management cautions that the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are not guarantees of future performance, and we cannot assume that such statements will be realized or the forward-looking events and circumstances will occur. Factors that might cause such a difference include, without limitation, the risks and uncertainties discussed under "Risk Factors" in this Annual Form 10-K, and discussed from time to time in our reports filed with the SEC.

Given these risks and uncertainties, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference into this Annual Form 10-K are made only as of the date hereof. We do not undertake and specifically decline any obligation to update any such statements or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any such statements to reflect future events or developments.

# **ITEM 1 BUSINESS**

#### **GENERAL**

Federated National Holding Company ("FNHC", "Company", "we", "us"), formerly known as 21st Century Holding Company, is an insurance holding company that controls substantially all steps in the insurance underwriting, distribution and claims processes through our subsidiaries and our contractual relationships with our independent agents and general agents. We changed our name on September 11, 2012, pursuant to approval received at our annual shareholders' meeting, from 21st Century Holding Company so that our parent company and other subsidiary companies' names are consistent with our primary insurance subsidiary and the name under which we have been writing insurance for more than 23 years.

We are authorized to underwrite, and/or place through our wholly owned subsidiaries, homeowners' multi-peril ("homeowners"), commercial general liability, federal flood, personal auto and various other lines of insurance in Florida and various other states. We market and distribute our own and third-party insurers' products and our other services through a network of independent agents.

Our insurance subsidiary is Federated National Insurance Company ("FNIC"). FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Florida. An admitted carrier is an insurance company that has received a license from the state department of insurance giving the company the authority to write specific lines of insurance in that state. These companies are also

bound by rate and form regulations, and are strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud. Admitted carriers are also required to financially contribute to the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders. Through contractual relationships with a network of approximately 3,600 independent agents, of which approximately 2,300 actively sell and service our products, FNIC is authorized to underwrite homeowners', commercial general liability, fire, allied lines and personal and commercial automobile insurance in Florida. FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas and underwrites commercial general liability insurance in those states. FNIC also underwrites homeowners' insurance in Louisiana and Alabama, commencing in October 2014. Additionally, we underwrite personal automobile insurance in Georgia and Texas.

FNIC is licensed as a non-admitted carrier in Missouri, Nevada and South Carolina and can underwrite commercial general liability insurance in all of these states. Currently, we do not have any operations in these states. A non-admitted carrier, sometimes referred to as an "excess and surplus lines" carrier, is permitted to do business in a state and, although it is strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud, non-admitted carriers are subject to considerably less regulation with respect to policy rates and forms. Non-admitted carriers are not required to financially contribute to and benefit from the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders.

- 3 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

We internally process claims made by our insureds through our wholly owned claims adjusting company, Federated National Adjusting, Inc. ("FNA"). Our agents have no authority to settle claims or otherwise exercise control over the claims process. Furthermore, we believe that the retention of independent adjusters, in addition to the employment of salaried claims personnel, results in reduced ultimate loss payments, lower Loss and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") and improved customer service for our claimants and policyholders. We also employ an in-house litigation management team to cost effectively manage claims-related litigation and to monitor our claims handling practices for efficiency and regulatory compliance.

During 2014, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation ("Florida OIR") approved an application to allow the claims administration operations of FNA to be assumed by FedNat Underwriters, Inc. ("FNU"), formerly known as Federated National Underwriters Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Under the amended managing general agency agreement between FNU and FNIC, FNU will provide the same claims administration services under the same fee structure. The combination of these services in FNU had no effect on consolidated net income.

FNU acts as FNIC's exclusive managing general agent in Florida and is also licensed as a managing general agent in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina and Texas. FNU has contracted with other unaffiliated insurance companies to sell personal umbrella through FNU's existing network of agents.

FNU earns commissions and fees for providing policy administration, marketing, accounting and analytical services, and for participating in the negotiation of reinsurance contracts. FNU earns a per policy fee which ranges from \$25 to \$55 and a commission fee from its affiliate, FNIC, which totaled 4% during 2014. The Florida OIR periodically reviews our managing general agent's fee structure to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate to operate.

The homeowner policy provides FNU the right to cancel any policy within a period of 90 days from the policy's inception with 25 days' notice, or after 90 days from policy inception with 95 days' notice, even if the risk falls within our underwriting criteria.

Although we are authorized to underwrite the various lines described above, our business is primarily underwriting homeowners' policies. During 2014, 91.4%, 3.3%, 2.0% and 3.3% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively. During 2014, \$39.6 million or 11.0% of the \$344.9 million of homeowners' premiums we underwrote were produced under an agency agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc. ("ISA"), an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, that grants Allstate agents the authority to offer certain FNU products. The \$39.6 million of homeowners' premiums produced under this agreement with ISA represents 31.0% of the total increase in the sale of homeowners' policies during 2014, compared with 2013. This network of agents began writing for FNIC in March 2013. During 2013, 89.6%, 4.3%, 2.6% and 3.5% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 or 2012, we did not experience any weather-related catastrophic events such as the hurricanes that occurred in Florida during 2005 and 2004. We are not able to predict how hurricanes or other insurable events will affect our future results of operations and liquidity. Losses and LAE are affected by a number of factors, many of which are partially or entirely beyond our control, including the following.

- ·the nature and severity of the loss;
- ·weather-related patterns;
- ·the availability, cost and terms of reinsurance;
- ·underlying settlement costs, including medical and legal costs;
- ·legal and political factors such as legislative initiatives and public opinion;

·macroeconomic issues.

Our business, results of operations and financial condition are subject to fluctuations due to a variety of factors. Abnormally high severity or frequency of claims in any period could have a material adverse effect on us. When our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are less than the actuarially determined amounts, we increase the expense in the current period. Conversely, when our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are greater than the actuarially determined amounts, we decrease the expense in the current period.

We previously entered into a Coexistence Agreement effective August 30, 2013 (the "Coexistence Agreement") with Federated Mutual Insurance Company ("Federated Mutual") pursuant to which, among other things, we may continue to use "Federated" until at least August 30, 2020, after which time we have agreed to either cease using "Federated" in commerce or otherwise adopt and use trade names that are not confusingly similar to Federated Mutual's trademarks. We continue to develop our brand under the "FedNat" name, which is the name by which agents generally know us.

- 4 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our goal in our reinsurance strategy is to equalize the liquidity requirements imposed by most severe insurable events and by all other insurable events we manage in the normal course of business. Please see "Reinsurance Agreements" under "Item 1. Business" for a more detailed description of our reinsurance agreements and strategy.

Our executive offices are located at 14050 N.W. 14th Street, Suite 180, Sunrise, Florida 33323 and our telephone number is (800) 293-2532.

Our internet web site is www.FedNat.com for policy holders, agents and investors. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to such reports are available, free of charge, through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file or furnish such material to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Further, a copy of this annual report on Form 10-K is located at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room can be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding our filings at www.sec.gov.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

We sold 2,358,975 shares of our common stock in an August 6, 2014 capital raise offering, which represented approximately 17.0% of our outstanding shares of common stock on that date after giving effect to this offering.

#### **BUSINESS STRATEGY**

We expect that in 2015 we will capitalize on our operational efficiencies and business practices through:

- improved property analytical qualities such as a broader geographical dispersion of risks throughout the state of Florida and avoiding risks that do not yield an underwriting profit;
- continued territorial expansion of our homeowners', commercial general liability and private passenger automobile insurance products into additional states;
- ·employing our business practices developed and used in Florida in our expansion to other selected states;
- ·maintaining a commitment to provide high quality customer service to our agents and insureds;
- expansion of our marketing efforts by retaining key personnel and implementing direct marketing technologies;
- offering attractive incentives to our agents to place a high volume of quality business with our companies;
- offering our employees continuing education classes appropriate to the respective discipline employed within this organization;
- ·assumption of existing risks from other carriers; and
- additional strategies that may include possible mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures or dispositions of assets, and development of procedures to improve claims history and mitigate losses from claims.

We expect that in 2015 these strategies have poised us to accelerate the 2014 results trajectory in 2015 and beyond. There can be no assurances, however, that any of the foregoing strategies will be developed or successfully

implemented or, if implemented, that they will positively affect our results of operations.

#### INSURANCE OPERATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES

#### Overview of Premium Growth

Gross premiums written increased \$133.8 million, or 55.0%, to \$377.2 million for 2014, compared with \$243.4 million for 2013. Florida homeowners' represents 94% and Texas private passenger automobile represents the remaining 6% of the increased premium volume. We believe that our growth in 2014 reflects management's efforts over several years. Our success today reflects our goal to be an agent-friendly carrier that provides exceptional service. We have invested in our agent relationships and our staff, have created easy-to-use systems for the agent, and increased our relevance to the agents' operations by providing insurance products that meet their market needs.

- 5 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our homeowner business contributed \$126.6 million or 95.0% of the increased gross written premiums during the year ended December 31, 2014. This increase was the result of:

- ·policyholders continuing to renew their FNIC homeowners' policy,
- ·a "flight to quality" in the market by agents who seek quality carriers to place their business, and
- ·supporting a marketing team dedicated to promoting the quality and quantity of products and services that we offer.

During 2014, approximately 88% of our policyholders renewed their Florida homeowner policies. We believe that high retention rate reflects the confidence that the policyholder and his agent have in our financial stability and strength and in our commitment to adjusting claims quickly and fairly.

#### Overview of Insurance Lines of Business

The following tables set forth the amount and percentages of our consolidated gross premiums written, premiums ceded to reinsurers and net premiums written by line of business for the periods indicated.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		2012	
	Premium	Percent	Premium	Percent	Premium	Percent
	(Dollars in	Thousand	ls)			
Gross written premiums:						
Automobile	\$12,377	3.3 %	\$8,449	3.5 %	\$2,996	2.5 %
Federal Flood	7,408	2.0 %	6,213	2.6 %	5,293	4.4 %
Homeowners'	344,939	91.4 %	218,350	89.6 %	101,832	85.3 %
Commercial General Liability	12,432	3.3 %	10,362	4.3 %	9,338	7.8 %
Total gross written premiums	\$377,156	100.0 %	\$243,374	100.0 %	\$119,459	100.0 %
Ceded premiums:						
Automobile	\$9,300	4.6 %	\$6,337	7.7 %	\$2,021	4.0 %
Federal Flood	7,408	3.7 %	6,213	7.5 %	5,293	10.4 %
Homeowners'	184,766	91.4 %	69,721	84.3 %	43,331	84.7 %
Commercial General Liability	524	0.3 %	438	0.5 %	440	0.9 %
Total ceded premiums	\$201,998	100.0 %	\$82,709	100.0 %	\$51,085	100.0 %
Net written premiums						
Automobile	\$3,077	1.8 %	\$2,112	1.3 %	\$975	1.4 %
Federal Flood	-	0.0 %	) <b>-</b>	0.0 %	-	0.0 %
Homeowners'	160,173	91.4 %	148,629	92.5 %	58,501	85.6 %
Commercial General Liability	11,908	6.8 %	9,924	6.2 %	8,898	13.0 %
Total net written premiums	\$175,158	100.0 %	\$160,665	100.0 %	\$68,374	100.0 %
_						

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Homeowners' Property and Casualty Insurance

In-Force Policy Count

FNIC underwrites homeowners' insurance in Florida, Alabama and Louisiana. Homeowners' insurance generally protects an owner of real and personal property against covered causes of loss to that property. The number of Alabama and Louisiana homeowner policies in-force totaled approximately 150 and 4,685 at December 31, 2014, respectively. The table that follows reflects the number of Florida homeowner policies in-force by county and reflects our concentrations of risk from catastrophic events.

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2014			2013			2012		
County	Amount	Percenta	ge	Amount	Percenta	ge	Amount	Percentag	ge
Palm Beach	20,990	11.4	%	13,874	11.9	%	7,270	11.7	%
Brevard	13,993	7.7	%	8,947	7.7	%	4,508	7.4	%
Collier	12,723	7.7	%	7,420	6.4	%	3,422	5.6	%
	9,958	7.0 5.5	% %	6,870	5.9	% %	5,422 5,175	8.5	%
Lee	,			*			,		% %
Hillsborough	8,743	4.8	%	6,350	5.5	%	2,682	4.4	
Pinellas	12,303	6.7	%	6,139	5.3	%	4,034	6.6	%
Broward	11,854	6.5	%	5,498	4.7	%	3,700	6.1	%
Saint Lucie	6,542	3.6	%	4,957	4.3	%	3,151	5.2	%
Indian River	6,291	3.4	%	4,704	4.0	%	2,436	4.0	%
Okaloosa	5,432	3.0	%	4,668	4.0	%	1,966	3.2	%
Martin	6,102	3.3	%	4,444	3.8	%	2,052	3.4	%
Orange	7,573	4.1	%	4,083	3.5	%	1,654	2.7	%
Sarasota	7,889	4.3	%	3,936	3.4	%	2,759	4.5	%
Charlotte	4,900	2.7	%	3,129	2.7	%	2,059	3.4	%
Escambia	3,877	2.1	%	3,038	2.6	%	1,227	2.0	%
Walton	3,403	1.9	%	3,021	2.6	%	1,210	2.0	%
Santa Rosa	3,581	2.0	%	2,939	2.5	%	1,305	2.1	%
Bay	3,763	2.1	%	2,785	2.4	%	792	1.3	%
Duval	3,396	1.9	%	2,249	1.9	%	911	1.5	%
Volusia	3,637	2.0	%	1,990	1.7	%	881	1.4	%
Miami-Dade	2,420	1.3	%	1,883	1.6	%	1,616	2.6	%
Manatee	4,435	2.4	%	1,859	1.6	%	1,560	2.6	%
Seminole	2,786	1.5	%	1,665	1.4	%	788	1.3	%
Saint Johns	2,687	1.5	%	1,639	1.4	%	547	0.9	%
Flagler	1,744	1.0	%	1,267	1.1	%	543	0.9	%
All others	11,535	6.3	%	7,047	6.1	%	2,854	4.7	%
Total	182,557	100.0	%	116,401	100.0	%	61,102	100.0	%

Our homeowner insurance products provide maximum dwelling coverage in the amount of approximately \$3.8 million, with the aggregate maximum policy limit being approximately \$6.2 million. We currently offer dwelling coverage "A" up to \$4.0 million with an aggregate total insured value of \$6.5 million. We continually subject these limits to review; during 2014 coverage "A" was increased by \$1.0 million and total insured value increased by \$1.5 million. The approximate average premium on the policies currently in-force is \$1,840, as compared with \$1,857 for 2013. The typical deductible is either \$2,500 or \$1,000 for non-hurricane-related claims and generally 2% of the coverage amount for the structure for hurricane-related claims.

Premium rates charged to our homeowner insurance policyholders are continually evaluated to assure that they meet the expectation that they are actuarially sound and produce a reasonable level of profit (neither excessive nor inadequate). Premium rates are regulated and approved by the Florida OIR. In 2014 our voluntary program rate study resulted in a rate decrease of 3% on our voluntary property book of homeowners' business. In 2013 our voluntary program rate indications did not indicate the need for adjustment. In 2012 we were approved for a 4.8% and 0.9% rate increase on our voluntary property book of homeowners' business.

- 7 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Similarly, for the policies we assumed from Citizens Property Insurance Corporation ("Citizens") in 2009, we received approval for a 14.8% increase in 2013 and a 14.1% rate increase in 2012. There was no rate change in 2014. Our voluntary program was 99.0%, 97.7%, and 90.0% of the total homeowner program, for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

For a further discussion regarding Homeowners' Property and Casualty Insurance, see "Recent Developments", above.

#### Commercial General Liability

We underwrite commercial general liability insurance for approximately 380 classes of artisan (excluding home-builders and developers) and mercantile trades (such as owners, landlords and tenants). The limits of liability range from \$100,000 per occurrence with a \$200,000 policy aggregate to \$1.0 million per occurrence with a \$2.0 million policy aggregate. We continually subject these limits to review, though there were no changes during 2014. We market the commercial general liability insurance products through independent agents and a limited number of general agencies unaffiliated with the Company. The average annual premium on policies currently in-force during 2014 is approximately \$796, as compared with \$773 in 2013.

The following table sets forth the amounts and percentages of our gross premiums written in connection with our commercial general liability program by state.

	Years End	ded Decem	ber	31,					
	2014			2013			2012		
	Amount	Percentage	•	Amount	Percentag	e,	Amount	Percentag	ge .
	(Dollars i	n Thousand	ls)						
<u>State</u>									
Florida	\$11,401	91.71	%	\$9,572	92.37	%	\$8,639	92.52	%
Louisiana	98	0.79	%	150	1.45	%	217	2.32	%
Texas	756	6.08	%	547	5.28	%	426	4.56	%
Other	177	1.42	%	93	0.90	%	56	0.60	%
Total	\$12,432	100.00	%	\$10,362	100.00	%	\$9,338	100.00	%

#### Personal Automobile

Personal automobile insurance markets can be divided into two categories, standard automobile and nonstandard automobile. Standard personal automobile insurance is principally provided to insureds who present an average risk profile in terms of driving record, vehicle type and other factors. Nonstandard personal automobile insurance is principally provided to insureds that are unable to obtain standard insurance coverage because of their driving record, age, vehicle type or other factors, including market conditions. The average nonstandard personal automobile insurance policy currently in-force is approximately \$1,056 for a six-month policy in Florida. The average nonstandard personal automobile insurance policy currently in-force in Texas is approximately \$61 for a one-month policy, \$197 for a three-month policy, \$372 for a six-month policy and \$1,116 for a twelve-month policy. During the third quarter of 2014 we began to issue nonstandard personal automobile insurance policies in Georgia. The average nonstandard personal automobile insurance policy currently in-force in Georgia is approximately \$466 for a six-month policy.

The maximum exposures for the nonstandard policy in Florida are \$10,000 per individual, \$20,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$10,000 per accident for property damage, and predominantly \$50,000 for comprehensive and collision. The maximum exposures for the nonstandard policy in Texas are \$30,000 per individual, \$60,000 per

accident for bodily injury, \$30,000 per accident for property damage, and predominantly \$50,000 for comprehensive and collision. For our nonstandard personal automobile insurance in Georgia, the maximum exposures are \$25,000 per individual, \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$25,000 per accident for property damage, and predominantly \$50,000 for comprehensive and collision.

#### Flood

FNIC writes flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP") on a direct and ceded basis. We write the policy for the NFIP, which assumes 100% of the flood risk while we retain a commission for our service. The average flood policy premium is approximately \$504 with limits up to \$250,000. Commissions in connection with this program totaled \$0.5 million, \$0.4 million and \$0.3 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

-8-

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

#### Managing General Agent Services

FNU, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, acts as FNIC's exclusive managing general agent in Florida and is also licensed as a managing general agent in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina and Texas. FNU has also contracted with other unaffiliated insurance companies to sell personal umbrella policies through FNU's existing network of agents.

FNU earns commissions and fees for providing policy administration, marketing, accounting and analytical services, and for participating in the negotiation of reinsurance contracts. FNU earns a per policy fee which ranges from \$25 to \$55 and a commission fee from its affiliate, FNIC, which totaled 4% during 2014. The Florida OIR periodically reviews our managing general agent's fee structure to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate to operate.

#### Claims Adjusting

We internally process claims made by our insureds through our wholly owned claims adjusting company, FNA. Our agents have no authority to settle claims or otherwise exercise control over the claims process. Furthermore, we believe that the retention of independent adjusters, in addition to the employment of salaried claims personnel, results in reduced ultimate loss payments, lower LAE and improved customer service for our claimants and policyholders. We also employ an in-house litigation management team to cost effectively manage claims-related litigation and to monitor our claims handling practices for efficiency and regulatory compliance.

During 2014, the Florida OIR approved an application to allow the claims administration operations of FNA to be assumed by FNU. Under the amended managing general agency agreement between FNU and FNIC, FNU will provide the same claims administration services under the same fee structure. The combination of these services in FNU had no effect on consolidated net income.

#### **Direct Billing**

The Company anticipates continued use of the direct bill feature associated with our homeowners' and commercial general liability programs. Direct billing is when the insurance company accepts from the insured, as a receivable, a promise to pay the premium, as opposed to requiring payment of the full amount of the policy. The advantage of direct billing a policyholder by the insurance company is that we are not reliant on a credit facility, but remain able to charge and collect interest from the policyholder. Underwriting criteria are designed with down payment requirements and monthly payments that create policyholder equity in the insurance policy. The equity in the policy is collateral for the extension of credit to the insured.

Through our monitoring systems, we track delinquent payments and, in accordance with the terms of the extension of credit, cancel if payment is not made. If any excess premium remains after cancellation of the policy and deduction of applicable penalties, this excess is refunded to the policyholder. The direct bill program enables us to closely manage our risk while providing credit to our insureds.

#### Independent Insurance Agency

Insure-Link, Inc. ("Insure-Link") is our independent insurance agency. The insurance agency markets direct to the public to provide a variety of insurance products and services to individual clients, as well as business clients, by offering a full line of insurance products including, but not limited to, homeowners', flood, personal and commercial automobile, commercial general liability and workers' compensation insurance through their agency appointments with over thirty different carriers.

#### MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION

We are focusing our marketing efforts on continuing to expand our distribution network while maintaining our commitment to long-term relationships. We market our products and services throughout Florida and in other states by establishing relationships with additional independent agents and general agents. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be able to obtain the required regulatory approvals to offer additional insurance products or expand into other states.

Our independent agents and general agents have the authority to sell and bind insurance coverage in accordance with procedures established by FNU. FNU reviews all coverage bound by the agents promptly and generally accepts all coverage that falls within stated underwriting criteria. For all policies issued, FNU also has the right, within a period that varies by state between 60 days and 120 days from a policy's inception, to cancel any policy, upon an advanced notice provided in accordance with statutory specific guidelines, even if the risk falls within our underwriting criteria.

-9-

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

We believe that our integrated computer systems, which allow for rapid automated premium quotation and policy issuance by our agents, is a key element in providing quality service to both our agents and insureds for various lines of our business.

We believe that the management of our distribution system now centers on our ability to capture and maintain relevant data by producing agents. We believe that information management of agent production, coupled with loss experience, will enable us to maximize profitability.

#### REINSURANCE AGREEMENTS

Financing risk generally involves a combination of risk retention and risk transfer techniques. "Retention", similar to a deductible, involves financing losses by funds internally generated. "Transfer" involves the existence of a contractual arrangement designed to shift financial responsibility to another party in exchange for premium. Secondary to the primary risk-transfer agreements, we use reinsurance agreements to transfer a portion of the risks insured under our policies to other companies through the purchase of reinsurance. We utilize reinsurance to reduce exposure to catastrophic and non-catastrophic risks and to help manage the cost of capital. Reinsurance techniques are designed to lessen earnings volatility, improve shareholder return, and to support the required statutory surplus requirements. We also use reinsurance to realize an arbitrage of premium rates, benefit from the availability of our reinsurers' expertise, and benefit from the management of a profitable portfolio of insureds by way of enhanced analytical capacities. Our primary property line that is subject to catastrophic reinsurance is Homeowners' Multiple Peril. FNIC cedes these risks to domestic and foreign reinsurance participants from Bermuda and Europe as well as to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund ("FHCF").

Quota share reinsurance is a pro rata agreement among the primary insurer and one or more reinsurers where each party shares a fixed and predetermined percentage of the program's premiums and losses. Excess of loss risk transfer agreements involve the transfer of premium in exchange for reimbursement for claims, if they occur, as a result of specific events such as severe catastrophic weather. For quota share and excess of loss reinsurance, coverage is generally afforded based on meeting predetermined risk characteristics. In contrast, facultative reinsurance is negotiated between the primary insurer and the reinsurer(s) on a case-by-case basis with no obligation on either part to cede or assume share the risk.

Generally, there are three separate kinds of reinsurance structures – quota share, excess of loss, and facultative, each considered either proportional or non-proportional. Our reinsurance structures are maintained to protect our insurance subsidiary against the severity of losses on individual claims or unusually serious occurrences in which the frequency and or the severity of claims produce an aggregate extraordinary loss from catastrophic events. In addition to reinsurance agreements, we also from time to time enter into retro-cessionary reinsurance agreements; each designed to shift financial responsibility based on predefined conditions.

Although reinsurance does not discharge us from our primary obligation to pay for losses insured under the policies we issue, reinsurance does make the assuming reinsurer liable to the insurance subsidiary for the reinsured portion of the risk. A credit risk exposure exists with respect to ceded losses to the extent that any reinsurer is unable or unwilling to meet the obligations assumed under the reinsurance contracts. The collectability of reinsurance is subject to the solvency of the reinsurers, interpretation of contract language and other factors. A reinsurer's insolvency or inability to make payments under the terms of a reinsurance contract could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Our reinsurance structure has significant risks, including the fact that the FHCF may not be able to raise sufficient money to pay its claims or impair its ability to pay its claims in a timely manner. This could result in significant financial, legal and operational challenges to all property and casualty companies associated with FHCF, including our company.

The availability and costs associated with the acquisition of reinsurance will vary year to year. These fluctuations, which can be significant, are not subject to our control and may limit our ability to purchase adequate coverage. For example, FHCF continues to restrict its reinsurance capacity and is expected to continue constricting capacity for future seasons. This gradual restriction is requiring us to replace that capacity with private market reinsurance. Our reinsurance program is subject to approval by the Florida OIR and review by Demotech, Inc. ("Demotech"). The recovery of increased reinsurance costs through rate action is not immediate and cannot be presumed and is subject to Florida OIR approval.

- 10 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

For the 2014–2015 hurricane season, the excess of loss and FHCF treaties insured the property lines for approximately \$1.49 billion of aggregate catastrophic losses and LAE with a maximum single event coverage totaling approximately \$1.01 billion, with the Company retaining the first \$11.20 million in Florida and \$3.0 million in Louisiana for losses and LAE from each event. Florida risks represent 98.5%, or \$1.46 billion of the \$1.49 billion of total aggregate catastrophic losses and LAE. The reinsurance program includes coverage purchased from the private market, which affords optional reinstatement premium protection that provides coverage beyond the first event, along with any remaining coverage from the FHCF. The FHCF only affords coverage for losses sustained in Florida. Coverage afforded by the FHCF totals approximately \$546.3 million, or 37.4% of Florida's \$1.46 billion of aggregate catastrophic losses and LAE. The FHCF affords coverage for the entire season, subject to maximum payouts, without regard to any particular insurable event.

The estimated cost to the Company for the excess of loss reinsurance products for the 2014–2015 hurricane season, inclusive of approximately \$40.20 million payable to the FHCF and the prepaid automatic premium reinstatement protection, is approximately \$117.0 million.

Included in this year's program is a 30% quota share reinsurance treaty for the Company's in-force new and renewal homeowners' insurance program in the State of Florida. This two-year quota share reinsurance treaty provides 30% of \$200 million of aggregate catastrophe coverage per year with maximum single event coverage of 30% of \$100 million per year. The approximate cost of this quota share is projected to be \$6.7 million per year, net of ceding commissions, and it is included in the \$117.0 million amount referenced above. The quota share treaty contains commutation provisions for the Company to share profits based on loss experience during the term of the treaty.

The 30% quota share reinsurance treaty described above contains profit sharing provisions that will adjust over its two-year term depending on the Company's loss experience from catastrophic and non-catastrophic events during the term. The frequency and severity of catastrophic events, coupled with non-catastrophic loss experience, will determine the ultimate profit share, if any. In accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), the Company will initially recognize an asset and liability and the resultant net income or loss. For example, deferred quota-share profit sharing totaled \$10.5 million as of December 31, 2014. The deferred quota-share profit sharing was originally recorded at \$14.0 million at the program's July 1, 2014 inception and will continue to amortize over the life of the program. Subsequently, the Company will adjust the value of the asset and liability based on information available at the time of valuation. Upward and downward adjustments to the asset's value will affect the Company's results of operations by increasing or decreasing net income in the period of the adjustment.

- 11 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

The 2014-2015 private reinsurance companies and their respective A.M. Best Company ("A.M. Best") and Standard and Poor's ("S&P") ratings are listed in the table as follows.

<u>Reinsurer</u>	A.M. Best Rating	S&P Rating
UNITED STATES		
American Agricultural Insurance Company	A-	NR
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin	A	NR
AIG (National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA)	A	A+
Everest Reinsurance Company	A+	A+
Odyssey Reinsurance Company	A	A-
QBE Reinsurance Corporation	A	A+
RLI Insurance Company	A+	A+
Transatlantic Reinsurance Company	A	A+
BERMUDA		
ACE Tempest Reinsurance Limited	A++	AA-
Allied World Assurance Company, Limited	A	A
Arch Reinsurance Limited	A+	A+
Argo Reinsurance Limited	A	NR
Ariel Reinsurance Bermuda Ltd for and on Behalf of Ariel Syndicate 1910 (ARE)	A-	A+
Aspen Bermuda Limited	A	A
AXIS Specialty Limited	A+	A+
BGS Services (Bermuda) Limited/Lloyds Syndicate 2987	A	A+
DaVinci Reinsurance Ltd	A	AA-
Endurance Specialty Insurance Limited	A	A
Hamilton Re, Limited	A-	NR
Hiscox Insurance Company (Bermuda) Limited	A	NR
Partner Reinsurance Company Limited	A+	A+
Platinum Underwriters Bermuda Limited	Α	A-
Renaissance Reinsurance, Limited	A+	AA-
Securis Re III Limited Bermuda		**NR
Securis Re IV Limited Bermuda		**NR
Tokio Millennium Re AG, Bermuda Branch	A++	AA-
XL RE Limited	A	A+
UNITED KINGDOM		
A.F. Beazley Syndicate No. 623 (AFB)	A	A+
A.F. Beazley Syndicate No. 2623 (AFB)	A	A+
Amlin Syndicate No. 2001 (AML)	A	A+
Antares Syndicate No. 1274 (AUL)	A	A+
Ariel Syndicate No. 1910 (ARE)	A	A+
ARK Syndicate No. 4020 (ARK)	A	A+
Ascot Syndicate No. 1414 (ASC)	A	A+
Barbican Syndication No. 1955 (BAR)	A	A+
Canopius Syndicate No. 958 (CNP)	A	A+

Canopius Syndicate No. 4444 (CNP)	A	A+
Cathederal Syndicate No. 2010 (MMX)	Α	A+
Chaucer Syndicate No. 1084 (CSL)	A	A+
Dale Underwriting Syndicate No. 1729 (DUW)	A	A+
Faraday Syndicate No. 435 (FDY)	A	A+
Hiscox Syndicate No. 0033 (HIS)	A	A+
Kiln Syndicate No. 510 (KLN)	A	A+
Liberty Syndicates Services Limited, Paris for and on behalf of Lloyd's Syndicate No. 4472 (LIB)	A	A+
MAP Underwriting Syndicate No. 2791 (MAP)	A	A+
MAP Underwriting Syndicate No. 2791 (Parallel) (MAP)	A	A+
Novae Syndicate No. 2007 (NVA)	A	A+
S.J.O, Catlin & Others No. 2003 (SJC)	A	A+
EUROPE		
Amlin AG, Switzerland, Bermuda Branch	A	A
Hannover Rueck SE (obo Pillar Capital Management)	NR	* **NR
Lansforsakringar Sak Forsakringsaktiebolag (publ)	NR	A
SCOR Global P&C SE, Paris, Zurich Branch	A	A
ASIA		
China Reinsurance (Group) Corporation	A	NR
Qatar Reinsurance Company LLC	A	A

<sup>\*</sup> Reinstatement Premium Protection Program Participants

- 12 -

<sup>\*\*</sup> Participant will fund a trust agreement for their exposure with cash and U.S. Government obligations of American institutions at fair market value.

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

For the 2013–2014 hurricane season, the excess of loss and FHCF treaties insured the property lines for approximately \$562.7 million of aggregate catastrophic losses and LAE with a maximum single event coverage totaling approximately \$420.4 million, with the Company retaining the first \$7.0 million of losses and LAE for each event. The reinsurance program includes coverage purchased from the private market, which affords optional reinstatement premium protection that provides coverage beyond the first event, along with any remaining coverage from the FHCF. Coverage afforded by the FHCF totals approximately \$278.1 million, or 49.4% of the \$562.7 million of aggregate catastrophic losses and LAE. The FHCF affords coverage for the entire season, subject to maximum payouts, without regard to any particular insurable event.

The estimated cost to the Company for the excess of loss reinsurance products for the 2013-2014 hurricane season, inclusive of approximately \$21.7 million payable to the FHCF and the prepaid automatic premium reinstatement protection, is approximately \$67.9 million.

The 2013-2014 private reinsurance companies and their respective A.M. Best and S&P ratings are listed in the table as follows.

Reinsurer	A.M. Best Rating	S&P Rating
UNITED STATES		
American Agricultural Insurance Company	A-	NR
Everest Reinsurance Company	A+	A+
Houston Casualty Company, UK Branch	A	A+
Odyssey Reinsurance Company	A	A-
BERMUDA		
ACE Tempest Reinsurance Limited	A+	AA-
Allied World Assurance Company Limited, Bermuda	A	A
Arch Reinsurance Limited	A+	A+
Argo Reinsurance Limited	A	NR
Ariel Reinsurance Bermuda Ltd for and on Behalf of Ariel Syndicate 1910 (ARE)	A-	NR
DaVinci Reinsurance Ltd	A	A+
Endurance Specialty Insurance Limited	A	A
JC Re Ltd. (aka Pillar Capital and fka Juniperus & Actua Re Ltd.)	NR *	**NR
Partner Reinsurance Company Limited	A+	A+
Platinum Underwriters Bermuda Limited	A	A-
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd	A+	AA-
S.A.C. Re, Ltd.	A-	NR
XL Re Limited	A	A
UNITED KINGDOM		
A.F. Beazley Syndicate No. 623 (AFB)	A	A+
A.F. Beazley Syndicate No. 2623 (AFB)	A	A+
Amlin Syndicate No. 2001 (AML)	A	A+
Ariel Syndicate No. 1910 (ARE)	A	A+
ARK Syndicate No. 3902 (NOA)	A	A+
Ascot Syndicate No. 1414 (ASC)	A	A+

Barbican Syndication No. 1955 (BAR)	A	A+
Canopius Syndicate No. 958 (CNP)	A	A+
Canopius Syndicate No. 4444 (CNP)	A	A+
Cathederal Syndicate No. 2010 (MMX)	A	A+
Kiln Syndicate No. 510 (KLN)	A	A+
Liberty Syndicates Services Limited, Paris for and on behalf of Lloyd's Syndicate No. 4472 (LIB)	NR	A+
MAP Underwriting Syndicate No. 2791 (MAP)	A	A+
MAP Underwriting Syndicate No. 2791 (Parallel) (MAP)	A	A+
Novae Syndicate No. 2007 (NVA)	A	A+
Pembroke Syndicate No. 4000 (PEM)	A	A+
Tokio Marine Kiln Syndicate No. 1880 (TMK)	A	A+
EUROPE		
Amlin Bermuda (Branch of Amlin AG)	A	A
SCOR Global P&C SE	A	A

<sup>\*</sup> Reinstatement Premium Protection Program Participants

- 13 -

<sup>\*\*</sup> Participant will fund a trust agreement for their exposure with cash and U.S. Government obligations of American institutions at fair market value.

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Annually, the cost and amounts of reinsurance are based on management's analysis of FNIC's exposure to catastrophic risk as of June 30 and estimated to September 30. Our data is then subjected to actual exposure level analysis as of September 30. This analysis of our exposure level in relation to the total exposures to the FHCF and excess of loss treaties may produce changes in limits and reinsurance premiums as a result of the reconciliation of estimated to actual exposure level. The September 30, 2014 change to total insured value was an increase of \$5.4 billion or 8.2% and the change to reinsurance premiums was an increase of \$0.4 million. The September 30, 2013 change to total insured value was an increase of \$8.7 billion or 25.3% and the change to reinsurance premiums was an increase of \$8.3 million or 13.3%. These adjustments are amortized over the remaining underlying policy term.

To date, we have made no claims asserted against our reinsurers in connection with the 2014–2015 and 2013–2014 excess of loss and FHCF treaties.

The quota share retrocessionaire reinsurance agreements require FNIC to securitize credit, regulatory and business risk. Fully funded trust agreements totaled \$4.9 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

We are selective in choosing reinsurers and consider numerous factors, the most important of which are the financial stability of the reinsurer, its history of responding to claims and its overall reputation. In an effort to minimize our exposure to the insolvency of a reinsurer, we evaluate the acceptability and review the financial condition of the reinsurer at least annually.

FNIC entered into Commutation, Settlement and Release Agreements ("CSR") effective December 31, 2014. The underlying reinsurance treaties covering Florida private passenger automobiles were for a term from November 1, 2001 to December 31, 2003. As of December 31, 2014, there were no unearned premiums, direct loss or loss adjustment expense reserves and the ceded reinsurance recoverable totaled approximately \$12,000 was received in January 2015. The agreement to commute had no effect on current year operations. Under the terms of the CSR, each party agreed to fully and finally release and commute all rights, obligations and liabilities, both known and unknown, for both parties pertaining to these agreements.

#### LIABILITY FOR UNPAID LOSSES AND LAE

We are directly liable for losses and LAE payments under the terms of the insurance policies that we write. In many cases, there may be a time lag between the occurrence and reporting of an insured loss and our payment of that loss. As required by insurance regulations and accounting rules, we reflect the liability for the ultimate payment of all incurred losses and LAE by establishing a liability for those unpaid losses and LAE for both reported and unreported claims, which represent estimates of future amounts needed to pay claims and related expenses.

When a claim, other than personal automobile, involving a probable loss is reported, we establish a liability for the estimated amount of our ultimate losses and LAE payments. The estimate of the amount of the ultimate loss is based upon such factors as the type of loss, jurisdiction of the occurrence, knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the claim, severity of injury or damage, potential for ultimate exposure, estimate of liability on the part of the insured, past experience with similar claims and the applicable policy provisions.

All newly reported claims received with respect to personal automobile policies are set up with an initial average liability. The average liability for these claims is determined by dividing the number of reported claims into the total amount paid during the same period. If a claim is open more than 45 days, that open case liability is evaluated and the liability is adjusted upward or downward according to the facts and circumstances of that particular claim.

In addition, management provides for a liability on an aggregate basis to provide for incurred but not yet reported ("IBNR"). We utilize independent actuaries to help establish liability for unpaid losses and LAE. We do not discount the liability for unpaid losses and LAE for financial statement purposes.

The estimates of the liability for unpaid losses and LAE are subject to the effect of trends in claims severity and frequency and are continually reviewed. As part of this process, we review historical data and consider various factors, including known and anticipated legal developments, inflation and economic conditions. As experience develops and other data become available, these estimates are revised, as required, resulting in increases or decreases to the existing liability for unpaid losses and LAE. Adjustments are reflected in results of operations in the period in which they are made and the liabilities may deviate substantially from prior estimates.

- 14 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Among our classes of insurance, the automobile and homeowners' liability claims historically tend to have longer time lapses between the occurrence of the event, the reporting of the claim and the final settlement, than do automobile physical damage and homeowners' property claims. These liability claims often involve parties filing suit and therefore may result in litigation. By comparison, property damage claims tend to be reported in a relatively shorter period of time and settled in a shorter time frame with less occurrence of litigation.

There can be no assurance that our liability for unpaid losses and LAE will be adequate to cover actual losses. If our liability for unpaid losses and LAE proves to be inadequate, we will be required to increase the liability with a corresponding reduction in our net income in the period in which the deficiency is identified. Future loss experience substantially in excess of established liability for unpaid losses and LAE could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of beginning and ending liability for unpaid losses and LAE as shown in our consolidated financial statements for the periods indicated.

	Period En December 31, 2014 (Dollars i	31, 2012				
Balance at January 1 Less reinsurance recoverables Net balance at January 1		\$49,908 (3,503) \$46,405	\$ 59,983 (2,088) \$ 57,895			
Incurred related to Current year Prior years Total incurred	\$79,932 1,104 \$81,036	\$ 56,209 201 \$ 56,410	\$ 31,636 (1,427) \$ 30,209			
Paid related to Current year Prior years Total paid	\$42,391 31,123 \$73,514	\$ 44,541	\$ 15,892 25,807 \$ 41,699			
Net balance at period end Plus reinsurance recoverables Balance as of period end	\$65,796 12,534 \$78,330	\$ 58,274 2,742 \$ 61,016	\$ 46,405 3,503 \$ 49,908			

As shown above, and as a result of review of liability for losses and LAE, which includes a re-evaluation of the adequacy of reserve levels for prior year's claims, we increased the liability for losses and LAE for claims occurring in prior years by \$1.1 million and \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 and decreased the liability for losses and LAE for claims occurring in prior years by \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The liability for losses and LAE increased by \$18.4 million and \$1.4 million for our homeowners' and commercial general liability lines, and decreased by \$2.5 million for our automobile line, respectively, during 2014. These changes are due to management's continued efforts to manage the claims life cycle more efficiently. Additionally, our underwriting processes are designed to quickly gather the true primary and secondary risk characteristics and provide

a profitable quote to the policyholder. This approach helps to reduce the overall frequency and severity of the loss portfolio.

Based upon discussions with our independent actuarial consultants and their statements of opinion on losses and LAE, we believe that the liability for unpaid losses and LAE is currently adequate to cover all claims and related expenses which may arise from incidents reported and IBNR as of December 31, 2014. There can be no assurance concerning future adjustments of reserves, positive or negative, for claims incurred through December 31, 2014.

- 15 -

# **Table of Contents**

- 16 -

Federated National Holding Company

The following table presents total unpaid losses and LAE, net, and total reinsurance recoverable due from our catastrophic reinsurers as shown in our consolidated financial statements.

	31, 201 (Do	of cember 4 2013 dlars in busands)
Catastrophe Excess of Loss (various participants) and FHCF	Φ 5	¢ 20
Reinsurance recoverable on paid losses and LAE	\$ 5	
Unpaid losses and LAE	3	25
	\$8	\$ 54
Amounts due from (to) reinsurers consisted of amounts related to:		
Unpaid losses and LAE	\$ 3	\$ 25
Reinsurance recoverable on paid LAE	5	29
	\$ 8	\$ 54

### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

The following table presents the liability for unpaid losses and LAE for the years ended December 31, 2005 through 2014 and does not distinguish between catastrophic and non-catastrophic events. The top line of the table shows the estimated liability for unpaid losses and LAE at the balance sheet date for each of the periods indicated. These figures represent the estimated amount of unpaid losses and LAE for claims arising in all prior years that were unpaid at the balance sheet date, including losses that had been IBNR. The portion of the table labeled "Cumulative paid as of" shows the cumulative payments for losses and LAE made in succeeding years for losses incurred prior to the balance sheet date. The lower portion of the table shows the re-estimated amount of the previously recorded liability based on experience as of the end of each succeeding year.

Years Ended	December 31,
(Dollars in Th	ousands)

(Dollars)	iii Tiiousane	us)							
2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
\$78,330	\$61,016	\$49,908	\$59,983	\$66,529	70,611	\$64,775	\$59,685	\$39,615	\$154,03
	26,928	24,329	16,527	20,774	29,202	26,431	30,570	36,058	170,82
		35,576	31,676	26,667	40,493	45,264	48,409	58,002	196,08
			39,119	38,703	42,577	52,761	64,014	72,752	215,29
				44,305	50,096	53,689	68,865	86,110	228,80
					53,283	60,075	68,880	89,006	240,17
						62,344	73,235	87,555	242,38
							74,627	90,910	244,40
								91,885	246,28
									247,12
I									
78,330	61,016	49,908	59,983	66,529	70,611	64,775	59,685	39,615	154,03
	62,120	46,245	58,389	62,756	73,122	75,646	69,383	71,907	193,06
		50,241	58,711 58,027	51,266 51,936	70,709 59,276	80,606 78,132	82,890 88,159	80,383 97,174	223,00 231,76
i	2014 \$78,330	2014 2013 \$78,330 \$61,016 26,928	\$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 26,928 24,329 35,576 1 78,330 61,016 49,908 62,120 46,245	2014 2013 2012 2011  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983  26,928 24,329 16,527 35,576 31,676 39,119  78,330 61,016 49,908 59,983 62,120 46,245 58,389 50,241 58,711	2014 2013 2012 2011 2010  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983 \$66,529  26,928 24,329 16,527 20,774  35,576 31,676 26,667  39,119 38,703  44,305  78,330 61,016 49,908 59,983 66,529  62,120 46,245 58,389 62,756  50,241 58,711 51,266	2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983 \$66,529 70,611  26,928 24,329 16,527 20,774 29,202  35,576 31,676 26,667 40,493  39,119 38,703 42,577  44,305 50,096  53,283  78,330 61,016 49,908 59,983 66,529 70,611  62,120 46,245 58,389 62,756 73,122  50,241 58,711 51,266 70,709	2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983 \$66,529 70,611 \$64,775  26,928 24,329 16,527 20,774 29,202 26,431  35,576 31,676 26,667 40,493 45,264  39,119 38,703 42,577 52,761  44,305 50,096 53,689  53,283 60,075  62,344  78,330 61,016 49,908 59,983 66,529 70,611 64,775  62,120 46,245 58,389 62,756 73,122 75,646  50,241 58,711 51,266 70,709 80,606	2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983 \$66,529 70,611 \$64,775 \$59,685  26,928 24,329 16,527 20,774 29,202 26,431 30,570 35,576 31,676 26,667 40,493 45,264 48,409 39,119 38,703 42,577 52,761 64,014 44,305 50,096 53,689 68,865 53,283 60,075 68,880 62,344 73,235 74,627	2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006  \$78,330 \$61,016 \$49,908 \$59,983 \$66,529 70,611 \$64,775 \$59,685 \$39,615  26,928 24,329 16,527 20,774 29,202 26,431 30,570 36,058 35,576 31,676 26,667 40,493 45,264 48,409 58,002 39,119 38,703 42,577 52,761 64,014 72,752 44,305 50,096 53,689 68,865 86,110 53,283 60,075 68,880 89,006 62,344 73,235 87,555 74,627 90,910 91,885

Edgar Filing: FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Three years																	
later																	
Four years																	
later							55,14	7	58,223	3	68,119	9	85,532		102,57	1	248,11
Five years																	
later									59,40	1	69,226	6	77,294		99,710		252,36
Six years																	
later											61,05	1	78,541		93,878		249,74
Seven years																	
later													67,879		96,514		248,21
Eight years																	•
later															78,223		251,21
Nine years																	
later																	218,55
Cumulativa																	ļ
Cumulative (deficiency)																	
redundancy	(1,104	<i>1</i> )	(333	)	1,956		11,382	2	11,210	Ω	3,724		(8,194)	`	(38,608	۶ )	(64,51)
Cumulative	(1,10-	+ )	(333	,	1,950		11,50	2	11,410	J	3,144		(0,124)	1	(36,000	,,	(04,51
(deficiency)																	
redundancy																	
as a % of																	
reserves																	
originally																	
established	-1.8	%	-0.7	%	3.3	%	17.1	%	15.9	%	5.7	%	-13.7 9	%	-97.5	%	-41.9
established	-1.0	70	-0.7	70	3.3	70	1/.1	70	13.9	70	5.1	70	<b>-13.</b> / 7	10	-91.3	70	-41.7

The cumulative redundancy or deficiency represents the aggregate change in the estimates over all prior years. A deficiency indicates that the latest estimate of the liability for losses and LAE is higher than the liability that was originally estimated and a redundancy indicates that such estimate is lower. It should be emphasized that the table presents a run-off of balance sheet liability for the periods indicated rather than accident or policy loss development for those periods. Therefore, each amount in the table includes the cumulative effects of changes in liability for all prior periods. Conditions and trends that have affected liabilities in the past may not necessarily occur in the future.

- 17 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

As noted above, we have since experienced \$1.1 million and \$0.3 million cumulative deficiencies in connection with the re-estimation of all losses that occurred in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The table below sets forth the differences between loss and LAE reserves as disclosed for GAAP basis compared with Statutory Accounting Principles ("SAP") basis of presentation for the years ended 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 2012 (Dollars in Thousands)

GAAP basis Loss and LAE reserves	\$78,330	\$61,016	\$49,908
Less unpaid Losses and LAE ceded	10,395	2,312	3,189
Balance Sheet Liability	67,935	58,704	46,719
Add Insurance Apportionment Plan	7	2	6
Intercompany Indemnification	279	(4,705)	(2,039)
FNIC SAP basis Loss and LAE reserves	\$68,221	\$54,001	\$44,686

The table below sets forth the differences between loss and LAE incurred as disclosed for GAAP basis compared with SAP basis presentation for the years ended 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 2012 (Dollars in Thousands)

GAAP basis Loss and LAE incurred	\$81,036	\$56,410	\$30,209
Intercompany adjusting and other expenses	9,297	3,489	3,744
Insurance apportionment plan	40	13	(4)
SAP basis Loss and LAE incurred	\$90,373	\$59,912	\$33,949

Underwriting results of insurance companies are frequently measured by their Combined Ratios. However, investment income, federal income taxes and other non-underwriting income or expense are not reflected in the Combined Ratio. The profitability of property and casualty insurance companies depends on income from underwriting, investment and service operations. Underwriting results are considered profitable when the Combined Ratio is under 100% and unprofitable when the Combined Ratio is over 100%.

The following table sets forth Loss Ratios, Expense Ratios and Combined Ratios for the periods indicated for the insurance business for 2014, 2013 and 2012, and are inclusive of Unallocated Loss Adjustment Expenses ("ULAE").

	Years Ended December							
	31,							
	2014	2013	2012					
Loss Ratio	47.4%	54.0%	50.9	%				
Expense Ratio	36.5%	44.2%	53.4	%				
Combined Ratio	83.9%	98.2%	104.3	%				

Our loss ratio is computed as losses and LAE divided by net premiums earned. A lower loss ratio generally results in higher operating income. Our loss ratio for 2014 was 47.4% compared with 54.0% for the same period in 2013. The decrease to our loss ratio is due to the \$24.6 million increase in losses and LAE measured against the \$66.5 million

increase in net premium earned during 2014 as compared with the same period in 2013.

Our expense ratio is computed as the sum of operating and underwriting expenses plus salaries and wages plus amortization of Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs ("DPAC") divided by net premiums earned. A lower expense ratio generally results in higher operating income. Our expense ratio for 2014 was 36.5% compared with 44.2% for the same period in 2013. The decrease to our expense ratio is due to the \$16.2 million increase in the sum of operating and underwriting expenses plus salaries and wages plus amortization of DPAC measured against the \$66.5 million increase in net premium earned during 2014 as compared with the same period in 2013.

- 18 -

<u>Table of Contents</u> Federated National Holding Company

#### **COMPETITION**

We operate in highly competitive markets and face competition from national, regional and residual market insurance companies in the homeowners', commercial general liability, and automobile markets. Our competitors include companies that market their products through agents, as well as companies that sell insurance directly to their customers. Large national writers may have certain competitive advantages over agency writers, including increased name recognition, increased loyalty of their customer base and reduced policy acquisition costs. We compete based on underwriting criteria, our distribution network and superior service to our agents and insureds. Although our pricing is inevitably influenced to some degree by that of our competitors, we believe that it is generally not in our best interest to compete solely on price.

In Florida, more than 100 companies compete with us in the homeowners' insurance market. Several of our larger competitors are Citizens, Universal Property and Casualty Insurance Company and St. Johns Insurance Company. In Florida, more than one dozen companies compete with us in the commercial general liability insurance market.

Significant competition also emerged because of fundamental changes made to the property and casualty insurance business in Florida in recent years which resulted in a multi-pronged approach to address the cost of residential property insurance in Florida. First, the law increased the capacity of reinsurance that stabilized the reinsurance market to the benefit of the insurance companies writing properties lines in Florida. Secondly, the law provided for rate relief to all policyholders. The law also authorized the state-owned insurance company, Citizens, which is free of many of the restraints on private carriers such as surplus, ratios, income taxes and reinsurance expense, to reduce its premium rates and begin competing against private insurers in the residential property insurance market and expands the authority of Citizens to write commercial insurance.

As a result of legislation in 2013, Citizens has reduced its insurance policy count and established the Property Insurance Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse"). The Clearinghouse launched in January 2014, for new business ineligible for Citizens if a participating insurance company is willing to afford similar coverage at a price that is no more than 15% above the price of a policy with Citizens. Similarly, existing Citizens policies are not be eligible for renewal with Citizens if a participating insurance company is willing to afford similar coverage at no additional cost over the price for a Citizens policy. This allows potentially new and renewal policies of Citizens to be comparatively shopped by participating private market insurers before becoming, or remaining, policies of Citizens. Effective March 30, 2014, FNIC joined as a participating insurance company in the Clearinghouse.

#### REGULATION

#### General

We are subject to the laws and regulations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, South Carolina and Texas and regulations of any other states in which we seek to conduct business in the future. The regulations cover all aspects of our business and are generally designed to protect the interests of insurance policyholders, as opposed to the interests of shareholders. Such regulations relate to authorized lines of business, capital and surplus requirements, allowable rates and forms, investment parameters, underwriting limitations, transactions with affiliates, dividend limitations, changes in control, market conduct, maximum amount allowable for premium financing service charges and a variety of other financial and non-financial components of our business. Our failure to comply with certain provisions of applicable insurance laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. In addition, any changes in such laws and regulations, including the adoption of consumer initiatives regarding rates charged for coverage, could materially and adversely affect our operations or our ability to expand.

Most states' laws restrict an insurer's underwriting discretion, such as the ability to terminate policies, terminate agents or reject insurance coverage applications, and many state regulators have the power to reduce, or to disallow, increases in premium rates. In addition, state laws generally require that rate schedules and other information be filed with the state's insurance regulatory authority, either directly or through a rating organization with which the insurer is affiliated. The regulatory authority may disapprove a rate filing if it finds that the rates are inadequate, excessive or unfairly discriminatory. Rates, which are not necessarily uniform for all insurers, vary by class of business, hazard covered, and size of risk. Certain states, including Florida, as discussed above, have adopted laws or are considering proposed legislation which, among other things, limit the ability of insurance companies to effect rate increases or to cancel, reduce or non-renew insurance coverage with respect to existing policies, particularly personal automobile insurance.

Most states require licensure or regulatory approval prior to the marketing of new insurance products. Typically, licensure review is comprehensive and includes a review of a company's business plan, solvency, reinsurance, character of its officers and directors, rates, forms and other financial and non-financial aspects of a company. The regulatory authorities may prohibit entry into a new market by not granting a license or by withholding approval. - 19 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

All insurance companies must file quarterly and annual statements with certain regulatory agencies and are subject to regular and special examinations by those agencies. We may be the subject of additional special examinations or analysis. These examinations or analysis may result in one or more corrective orders being issued by the Florida OIR. The most recent balance sheet audit of FNIC by the Florida OIR occurred as of December 31, 2010. There were no material findings by the independent auditors in connection with this examination. FNIC also experienced a regularly scheduled statutory examination by the Florida OIR which occurred during 2010 for the five years ended December 31, 2010. There were no material findings in connection with this examination.

In some instances, various states routinely require deposits of assets for the protection of policyholders either in those states or for all policyholders. As an example, the Florida OIR requires FNIC to have securities with a fair market value of \$2.0 million held in escrow. As of December 31, 2014, FNIC held investment securities with a fair value of approximately \$2.3 million, as a deposit with the State of Florida. Additionally, as of December 31, 2014 FNIC had cash deposits totaling \$415,000 with the State of Alabama, \$238,000 with the State of Louisiana and \$25,000 with the State of Georgia.

As of December 31, 2013, FNIC held investment securities with a fair value of approximately \$2.0 million, as a deposit with the State of Florida. Additionally, as of December 31, 2013 FNIC had cash deposits totaling \$370,000 with the State of Alabama, \$118,900 with the State of Louisiana and \$25,000 with the State of Georgia.

#### Consent Order

As of September 30, 2014, we had satisfied all applicable conditions of the Consent Order we entered into in January 2011 (the "Consent Order") with the Florida OIR. We entered into the Consent Order in connection with the merger of our one of our wholly owned insurance subsidiaries, American Vehicle Insurance Company ("American Vehicle"), into FNIC, with FNIC continuing the operations of both entities. As of the date of this Report, the only operational restriction that remains in effect is a requirement to obtain OIR approval prior to writing commercial multi-peril business or any new commercial property business, including condo associations, under any other line of business for which FNIC is authorized. FNIC currently has no commercial multi-peril policy premium in-force and the current commercial habitation book of business is fully earned. The Consent Order required us to, among other things, limit the number of policies that we write in the Tri-County area and imposed certain other operational requirements on us, all of which we have complied with.

#### Restrictions in Payments of Dividends by Domestic Insurance Companies

Under Florida law, a domestic insurer may not pay any dividend or distribute cash or other property to its shareholders except out of that part of its available and accumulated capital surplus funds which is derived from realized net operating profits on its business and net realized capital gains. A Florida domestic insurer may not make dividend payments or distributions to shareholders without prior approval of the Florida OIR if the dividend or distribution would exceed the larger of (i) the lesser of (a) 10.0% of its capital surplus or (b) net income, not including realized capital gains, plus a two-year carryforward, (ii) 10.0% of capital surplus with dividends payable constrained to unassigned funds minus 25.0% of unrealized capital gains or (iii) the lesser of (a) 10.0% of capital surplus or (b) net investment income plus a three-year carryforward with dividends payable constrained to unassigned funds minus 25.0% of unrealized capital gains.

Alternatively, a Florida domestic insurer may pay a dividend or distribution without the prior written approval of the Florida OIR (i) if the dividend is equal to or less than the greater of (a) 10.0% of the insurer's capital surplus as regards policyholders derived from realized net operating profits on its business and net realized capital gains or (b) the insurer's entire net operating profits and realized net capital gains derived during the immediately preceding calendar

year, (ii) the insurer will have policy holder capital surplus equal to or exceeding 115.0% of the minimum required statutory capital surplus after the dividend or distribution, (iii) the insurer files a notice of the dividend or distribution with the Florida OIR at least ten business days prior to the dividend payment or distribution and (iv) the notice includes a certification by an officer of the insurer attesting that, after the payment of the dividend or distribution, the insurer will have at least 115.0% of required statutory capital surplus as to policyholders. Except as provided above, a Florida domiciled insurer may only pay a dividend or make a distribution (i) subject to prior approval by the Florida OIR or (ii) 30 days after the Florida OIR has received notice of such dividend or distribution and has not disapproved it within such time.

No dividends were paid by FNIC or American Vehicle in 2014, 2013 and 2012, and none are anticipated in 2015. Although we believe that amounts required to meet our financial and operating obligations will be available from sources other than dividends from our insurance subsidiaries, there can be no assurance in this regard. Further, there can be no assurance that, if requested, the Florida OIR will allow any dividends to be paid by FNIC to us, the parent company, in the future. The maximum dividends permitted by state law are not necessarily indicative of an insurer's actual ability to pay dividends or other distributions to a parent company, which also may be constrained by business and regulatory considerations, such as the impact of dividends on capital surplus, which could affect an insurer's competitive position, the amount of premiums that can be written and the ability to pay future dividends. Further, state insurance laws and regulations require that the statutory capital surplus of an insurance company following any dividend or distribution by it be reasonable in relation to its outstanding liabilities and adequate for its financial needs.

- 20 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

While the non-insurance company subsidiaries (FNU, FNA and any other affiliate) are not subject directly to the dividend and other distribution limitations, insurance holding company regulations govern the amount that any affiliate within the holding company system may charge any of the insurance companies for service (e.g., management fees and commissions).

National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC") Risk-Based Capital Requirements

In order to enhance the regulation of insurer solvency, NAIC established risk-based capital requirements for insurance companies that are designed to assess capital adequacy and to raise the level of protection that statutory surplus provides for policy holders. These requirements measure three major areas of risk facing property and casualty insurers: (i) underwriting risks, which encompass the risk of adverse loss developments and inadequate pricing; (ii) declines in asset values arising from credit risk; and (iii) other business risks from investments. Insurers having less statutory surplus than required will be subject to varying degrees of regulatory action, depending on the level of capital inadequacy. The Florida OIR, which follows these requirements, could require FNIC to cease operations in the event they fail to maintain the required statutory capital.

Based upon the 2014 and 2013 statutory financial statements for FNIC, statutory surplus exceeded the regulatory action levels established by the NAIC's risk-based capital requirements.

Based on risk-based capital requirements, the extent of regulatory intervention and action increases as the ratio of an insurer's statutory surplus to its Authorized Control Level ("ACL"), as calculated under the NAIC's requirements, decreases. The first action level, the Company Action Level, requires an insurer to submit a plan of corrective actions to the insurance regulators if statutory surplus falls below 200.0% of the ACL amount. The second action level, the Regulatory Action Level, requires an insurer to submit a plan containing corrective actions and permits the insurance regulators to perform an examination or other analysis and issue a corrective order if statutory surplus falls below 150.0% of the ACL amount. The third action level, ACL, allows the regulators to rehabilitate or liquidate an insurer in addition to the aforementioned actions if statutory surplus falls below the ACL amount. The fourth action level is the Mandatory Control Level, which requires the regulators to rehabilitate or liquidate the insurer if statutory surplus falls below 70.0% of the ACL amount. FNIC's ratio of statutory surplus to its ACL was 534.0%, 312.1% and 474.4% at December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Insurance Regulatory Information Systems ("IRIS") Ratios

The NAIC has also developed IRIS ratios to assist state insurance departments in identifying companies which may be developing performance or solvency problems, as signaled by significant changes in the companies' operations. Such changes may not necessarily result from any problems with an insurance company, but may merely indicate changes in certain ratios outside the ranges defined as normal by the NAIC. When an insurance company has four or more ratios falling outside "usual ranges", state regulators may investigate to determine the reasons for the variance and whether corrective action is warranted.

As of December 31, 2014, FNIC was outside NAIC's usual range for four of thirteen IRIS ratios. These exceptions related to change in policyholder surplus growth, investment yield and estimated current reserve deficiency to policyholders' surplus. The policyholder surplus growth exceeded the normal range due to the Company's surplus infusion into FNIC totaling approximately \$18.5 million. The increase in earned premiums during 2014 lead to the exceptional value for the Estimated Current Reserve to Deficiency to Surplus result.

As of December 31, 2013, FNIC was outside NAIC's usual range for three of thirteen IRIS ratios. These exceptions related to change in net writings, investment yield and estimated current reserve deficiency to policyholders' surplus.

As of December 31, 2012, FNIC was outside NAIC's usual range for three of thirteen IRIS ratios. These exceptions related to investment yield, net change in adjusted policyholders' surplus and estimated current reserve deficiency to policyholders' surplus.

There was no action taken by the Florida OIR in connection with the December 31, 2013 or 2012 IRIS ratio results. We do not currently believe that the Florida OIR will take any significant action with respect to FNIC regarding the 2014 IRIS ratios, although there can be no assurance that will be the case.

- 21 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

# **Insurance Holding Company Regulation**

We, the parent company, are subject to laws governing insurance holding companies in Florida where FNHC is domiciled. These laws, among other things, (i) require us to file periodic information with the Florida OIR, including information concerning our capital structure, ownership, financial condition and general business operations, (ii) regulate certain transactions between us and our affiliates, including the amount of dividends and other distributions, the terms of surplus notes and amounts that our affiliates can charge the holding company for services such as management fees or commissions, (iii) restrict the ability of any one person to acquire certain levels of our voting securities without prior regulatory approval. Any purchaser of 5% or more of the outstanding shares of our Common Stock will be presumed to have acquired control of FNHC unless the Florida OIR, upon application, determines otherwise.

# Underwriting and Marketing Restrictions

During the past several years, various regulatory and legislative bodies have adopted or proposed new laws or regulations to address the cyclical nature of the insurance industry, catastrophic events and insurance capacity and pricing. These regulations include (i) the creation of "market assistance plans" under which insurers are induced to provide certain coverages, (ii) restrictions on the ability of insurers to rescind or otherwise cancel certain policies in mid-term, (iii) advance notice requirements or limitations imposed for certain policy non-renewals and (iv) limitations upon or decreases in rates permitted to be charged.

#### **Industry Ratings Services**

Third-party rating agencies assess and rate the ability of insurers to pay their claims. These financial strength ratings are used by the insurance industry to assess the financial strength and quality of insurers. These ratings are based on criteria established by the rating agencies and reflect evaluations of each insurer's profitability, debt and cash levels, customer base, adequacy and soundness of reinsurance, quality and estimated market value of assets, adequacy of reserves and management. Ratings are based upon factors of concern to agents, reinsurers and policyholders and are not directed toward the protection of investors, such as purchasers of our common stock.

As of December 31, 2014, FNIC is rated by Demotech as "A" ("Exceptional"), which is the third of seven ratings, and defined as "Regardless of the severity of a general economic downturn or deterioration in the insurance cycle, insurers earning a Financial Stability Rating ("FSR") of "A" possess "Exceptional" financial stability related to maintaining surplus as regards to policyholders". Demotech's ratings are based upon factors of concern to agents, reinsurers and policyholders and are not primarily directed toward the protection of investors. Our Demotech rating could be jeopardized by factors including adverse development and various surplus related ratio exceptions. On November 22, 2014, Demotech reaffirmed FNIC's FSR of "A" ("Exceptional").

The withdrawal of our ratings could limit or prevent us from writing or renewing desirable insurance policies, from competing with insurers who have higher ratings, from obtaining adequate reinsurance, or from borrowing on a line of credit. The withdrawal of our ratings could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial position because the Company's insurance products might no longer be acceptable to the secondary marketplace and mortgage lenders. Furthermore, a withdrawal of our ratings could prevent independent agents from selling and servicing our insurance products.

# **EMPLOYEES**

As of December 31, 2014, we had 219 employees, including two executive officers. We are not a party to any collective bargaining agreement and we have not experienced work stoppages or strikes as a result of labor disputes. We consider relations with our employees to be satisfactory.

- 22 -

<u>Table of Contents</u> Federated National Holding Company

# **ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS**

We are subject to certain risks in our business operations which are described below. Careful consideration of these risks should be made before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing FNHC. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known or currently deemed immaterial may also impair our business operations.

#### Risks Related to Our Business

Our financial condition could be adversely affected by the occurrence of natural and man-made disasters.

We write insurance policies that cover homeowners, business owners and automobile owners for losses that result from, among other things, catastrophes and sinkholes. Catastrophic losses can be caused by natural events such as hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, wind, hail, fires, explosions and other events, and their incidence and severity are inherently unpredictable. They can also be caused by terrorist attacks, war, riots, political instability and other man-made events. The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of two factors: the total amount of the insurance company's exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Although our homeowners' policyholders are disbursed throughout Florida, substantially all of them are located in Florida, which is especially subject to adverse weather conditions such as hurricanes and tropical storms, and a substantial portion are located in southeastern Florida.

The occurrence of claims from catastrophic events could result in substantial volatility in our results of operations or financial condition for any fiscal quarter or year. Increases in the values and concentrations of insured property may also increase the severity of these occurrences in the future. Although we attempt to manage our exposure to such events through the use of underwriting controls and the purchase of third-party reinsurance, catastrophic events are inherently unpredictable and the actual nature of such events when they occur could be more frequent or severe than contemplated in our pricing and risk management expectations. As a result, the occurrence of one or more catastrophic events could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Although Florida has not experienced a hurricane during the last nine hurricane seasons, some weather analysts believe that we have entered a period of greater hurricane activity. We are exploring alternatives to reduce our exposure to these types of storms, which may increase operating expenses and may not be successful in protecting long-term profitability. If our loss experience is more adverse than is contemplated by our loss reserves, the related increase in our loss reserves may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in the period in which the increase occurs.

Although we follow the industry practice of reinsuring a portion of our risks, our costs of obtaining reinsurance fluctuates and we may not be able to successfully alleviate risk through reinsurance arrangements.

We have a reinsurance structure that is a combination of private reinsurance and the FHCF. Our reinsurance structure is composed of several reinsurance companies with varying levels of participation providing coverage for loss and LAE at pre-established minimum and maximum amounts. Losses incurred in connection with a catastrophic event below the minimum and above the maximum are the responsibility of FNIC.

The availability and costs associated with the acquisition of reinsurance will vary year to year. We are not able to control these fluctuations which may be significant and may limit our ability to purchase adequate coverage. The recovery of increased reinsurance costs through rate action is not immediate and cannot be presumed, as it is subject to approval of the Florida OIR.

We face a risk of non-collectability of reinsurance, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

As is common practice within the insurance industry, we transfer a portion of the risks insured under our policies to other companies through the purchase of reinsurance. This reinsurance is maintained to protect our insurance subsidiary against the severity of losses on individual claims, unusually serious occurrences in which a number of claims produce an aggregate extraordinary loss and other catastrophic events. Although reinsurance does not discharge our insurance subsidiary from its primary obligation to pay for losses insured under the policies it issues, reinsurance does make the assuming reinsurer liable to the insurance subsidiary for the reinsured portion of the risk. A credit exposure exists with respect to ceded losses to the extent that any reinsurer is unable or unwilling to meet the obligations assumed under the reinsurance contracts. The collectability of reinsurance is subject to the solvency of the reinsurers, interpretation of contract language and other factors. A reinsurer's insolvency or inability to make payments under the terms of a reinsurance contract could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

- 23 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our reinsurance structure has significant risks, including the fact that the FHCF may not be able to raise sufficient money to pay their claims or impair their ability to pay their claims in a timely manner. This could result in significant financial, legal and operational challenges to our company. Therefore, in the event of a catastrophic loss, we may become dependent upon the FHCF's ability to pay, which may, in turn, be dependent upon the MCP's ability to issue bonds in amounts that would be required to meet its reinsurance obligations in the event of such a catastrophic loss.

Our January 2011 Consent Order with the Florida OIR, as amended in February 2013, limits our business in certain respects and may prevent us from growing our business.

In January 2011, we entered into a Consent Order with the Florida OIR, in connection with our request for approval of the merger of FNIC, into American Vehicle, one of our other subsidiaries at the time. The Consent Order was amended in February 2013 to lessen or eliminate certain of the original requirements, due to FNIC's statutory underwriting profit during 2012. Among other things, the Consent Order as amended requires us to limit the concentration of our homeowners' policies in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. This reduction in concentration could materially adversely affect us by limiting our ability to write policies in the most populous region of the State of Florida, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations if we are not able to replace those policies with policies elsewhere in Florida or the other states in which we do business.

If we are unable to continue our growth because our capital must be used to pay greater than anticipated claims, our financial results may suffer.

Our future growth will depend on our ability to expand the types of insurance products we offer and the geographic markets in which we do business, both balanced by the business risks we choose to assume and cede. We believe that our Company is sufficiently capitalized to operate our business as it now exists and as we currently plan to expand it. Our existing sources of funds include possible sales of our investment securities and our earnings from operations and investments. Unexpected catastrophic events in our market areas, such as the hurricanes experienced in Florida, have resulted and may result in greater claims losses than anticipated, which could require us to limit or halt our growth while we redeploy our capital to pay these unanticipated claims.

We may require additional capital in the future which may not be available or only available on unfavorable terms.

Our future capital requirements depend on many factors, including our ability to write new business successfully and to establish premium rates and reserves at levels sufficient to cover losses. Based on our current operating plan, we believe current capital, together with our anticipated retained earnings, will support our operations without the need to raise additional capital. To the extent that our capital may be insufficient to meet future operating requirements and/or cover losses, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or curtail our growth. Many factors will affect the amount and timing of our capital needs, including our growth and profitability, our claims experience, and the availability of reinsurance, as well as possible acquisition opportunities, market disruptions and other unforeseeable developments.

If we were required to raise additional capital, equity or debt financing may not be available at all or may be available only on terms that are not favorable to us. In the case of equity financings, dilution to our stockholders' ownership could result, and in any case such securities may have rights, preferences and privileges that are senior to those of existing shareholders. If we raise additional funds by incurring debt financing, the terms of the debt may involve significant cash payment obligations as well as covenants and specific financial ratios that may restrict our ability to operate our business or pay dividends. If we cannot obtain adequate capital on favorable terms or at all, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Our business is heavily regulated, and changes in regulation may reduce our profitability and limit our growth.

We are subject to extensive regulation in the states in which we conduct business. This regulation is generally designed to protect the interests of policyholders, as opposed to shareholders and other investors, and relates to authorization for lines of business, capital and surplus requirements, investment limitations, underwriting limitations, transactions with affiliates, dividend limitations, changes in control, premium rates and a variety of other financial and non-financial components of an insurance company's business. These regulatory requirements may adversely affect or inhibit our ability to achieve some or all of our business objectives. State regulatory authorities also conduct periodic examinations into insurers' business practices. These reviews may reveal deficiencies in our insurance operations or differences between our interpretations of regulatory requirements and those of the regulators.

- 24 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC, and state insurance regulators are constantly reexamining existing laws and regulations, generally focusing on modifications to holding company regulations, interpretations of existing laws and the development of new laws.

From time to time, some states in which we conduct business have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state authority to regulate insurance companies and insurance holding companies. In other situations, states in which we conduct business have considered or enacted laws that impact the competitive environment and marketplace for property and casualty insurance. In addition, in recent years the state insurance regulatory framework has come under increased federal scrutiny. Changes in federal legislation and administrative policies in several areas, including changes in financial services regulation and federal taxation, can significantly impact the insurance industry and us.

We cannot predict with certainty the effect any enacted, proposed or future state or federal legislation or NAIC initiatives may have on the conduct of our business. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that the regulatory requirements applicable to our business will not become more stringent in the future or result in materially higher costs than current requirements. Changes in the regulation of our business may reduce our profitability, limit our growth or otherwise adversely affect our operations.

We may experience financial exposure from climate change.

A body of scientific evidence seems to indicate that climate change may be occurring. Climate change, to the extent that it may affect weather patterns, may cause an increase in the frequency and/or the severity of catastrophic events or severe weather conditions. Our financial exposure from climate change is most notably associated with losses in connection with the occurrence of hurricanes striking Florida. We mitigate the risk of financial exposure from climate change by restrictive underwriting criteria, sensitivity to geographic concentrations, and reinsurance.

Restrictive underwriting criteria can include, but are not limited to, higher premiums and deductibles and more specifically excluded policy risks such as fences and screened-in enclosures. New technological advances in computer generated geographical mapping afford us an enhanced perspective as to geographic concentrations of policyholders and proximity to flood prone areas. Our amount of maximum reinsurance coverage is determined by subjecting our homeowner exposures to statistical forecasting models that are designed to quantify a catastrophic event in terms of the frequency of a storm occurring once in every "n" years. Our reinsurance coverage contemplates the effects of a catastrophic event that occurs only once every 100 years. Our amount of losses retained (our deductible) in connection with a catastrophic event is determined by market capacity, pricing conditions and surplus preservation. There can be no assurance that our reinsurance coverage and other measures taken will be sufficient to mitigate losses resulting from one or more catastrophic events.

Our loss reserves are estimates and may be inadequate to cover our actual liability for losses, causing our results of operations to be adversely affected.

We maintain reserves to cover our estimated ultimate liabilities for loss and LAE. These reserves are estimates based on historical data and statistical projections of what we believe the settlement and administration of claims will cost based on facts and circumstances then known to us. Actual loss and LAE reserves, however, may vary significantly from our estimates.

Factors that affect unpaid losses and LAE include the estimates made on a claim-by-claim basis known as "case reserves" coupled with bulk estimates known as IBNR Periodic estimates by management of the ultimate costs required to settle all claim files are based on our analysis of historical data and estimations of the impact of numerous factors such as (i) per claim information; (ii) company and industry historical loss experience; (iii) legislative

enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in the awarding of damages, and changes in political attitudes; and (iv) trends in general economic conditions, including the effects of inflation. Management revises its estimates based on the results of its analysis. This process assumes that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for estimating the ultimate settlement of all claims. There is no precise method for subsequently evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of the reserves, because the eventual redundancy or deficiency is affected by multiple factors.

Because of the uncertainties that surround estimated loss reserves, we cannot be certain that our reserves will be adequate to cover our actual losses. If our reserves for unpaid losses and LAE are less than actual losses and LAE, we will be required to increase our reserves with a corresponding reduction in our net income in the period in which the deficiency is identified. Future loss experience, substantially in excess of our reserves for unpaid losses and LAE, could substantially harm our results of operations and financial condition.

- 25 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our revenues and operating performance will fluctuate due to statutorily approved assessments that support property and casualty insurance pools and associations.

We operate in a regulatory environment where certain entities and organizations have the authority to require us to participate in assessments. Currently these entities and organizations include, but are not limited to, the Florida Joint Underwriters Association, the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Citizens and the FHCF.

The insurance companies currently pass the assessments on to holders or insurance policies, in the form of a policy surcharge, and reflect the collection of these assessments as fully earned credits to operations in the period collected. The collection of these fees may adversely affect our overall marketing strategy due to the competitive landscape in Florida.

In addition, the impact of future assessments on our balance sheet, results of operations or cash flow are undeterminable at this time.

Our investment portfolio may suffer reduced returns or losses, which would significantly reduce our earnings.

Like other insurance companies, we depend on income from our investment portfolio for a substantial portion of our earnings. During the time that normally elapses between the receipt of insurance premiums and any payment of insurance claims, we invest the premiums received, together with our other available capital, primarily in debt securities and to a lesser extent in equity securities, in order to generate investment income.

Our investment portfolio contains interest rate sensitive instruments, such as bonds, which may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates. A significant increase in interest rates or decrease in credit worthiness could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. Generally, bond prices decrease as interest rates rise. Changes in interest rates could also have an adverse effect on our investment income and results of operations. For example, if interest rates decline, investment of new premiums received and funds reinvested will earn less than expected.

Our determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairment to record varies by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective investment type. We revise our evaluations and assessments as conditions change and new information becomes available, and we reflect changes in other-than-temporary impairments in our consolidated statements of income. We base our assessment of whether other-than-temporary impairments have occurred on our case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in fair value. We can neither provide assurance that we have accurately assessed whether the impairment of one or more of our investments is temporary or other-than-temporary, nor that we have accurately recorded amounts for other-than-temporary impairments in our financial statements. Furthermore, historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments and additional impairments may need to be recorded in the future.

In addition, volatile and illiquid markets increase the likelihood that investment securities may not behave in historically predictable manners, resulting in fair value estimates that may be overstated compared with actual amounts that could be realized upon disposition or maturity of the security. The effects of market volatility and declining economic conditions may have unforeseen consequences on the credit quality, liquidity and financial stability of the issuers of securities we hold, or reinsurers with which we do business. Such deteriorations in financial condition can occur rapidly, leaving us unable to react to such a scenario in a prudent manner consistent with our historical practices in dealing with more orderly markets. This in turn could adversely and negatively affect our results of operations, liquidity or financial condition.

We may experience a loss due to the concentration of credit risk.

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentration of credit risk consist of cash and cash equivalents held in a mutual fund money market account. The Company had approximately \$17.3 million and \$12.2 million invested in the Wilmington Prime Money Market Fund – Class Select (Ticker: VSMXX, CUSIP: 97181C308), for which the NAIC classification is Class 1, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Although this fund is on the Class 1 list, the highest rating available, there can be no assurance that it will remain financially sound. If the MTB Fund were to experience financial difficulty such that it could not repay the money we have invested in the fund, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

- 26 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

The failure of any of the loss limitation methods we employ could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or our results of operations.

Various provisions of our policies, such as limitations or exclusions from coverage which have been negotiated to limit our risks, may not be enforceable in the manner we intend. At the present time we employ a variety of exclusions to our policies that limit exposure to known risks, including, but not limited to, exclusions relating to certain named liabilities, types of vehicles and specific artisan activities.

In addition, the policies we issue contain conditions requiring the prompt reporting of claims to us and our right to decline coverage in the event of a violation of that condition. While we believe our insurance product exclusions and limitations reduce the loss exposure to us and help eliminate known exposures to certain risks, it is possible that a court or regulatory authority could nullify or void an exclusion or that legislation could be enacted modifying or barring the use of such endorsements and limitations in a way that would adversely affect our loss experience, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

The effects of emerging claim and coverage issues on our business are uncertain.

As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either extending coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued insurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued.

An example of such emerging change was the influence public adjusters have had on property claim patterns. Public adjusters represented the vast majority of new and reopened claims filed during 2011 and 2010 where the cause of loss was asserted as hurricane related. Although the legitimacy of the claim may not prevail we are still required to research, review and sometimes mediate these claims. Several legislative actions in of the State of Florida, such as limiting the time a claim can be filed subsequent to the cause of loss, have either passed or remain in legislative sub-committees. Each of these actions is designed to enhance the legitimacy of the public adjusters' influence on the claim process.

Our failure to pay claims accurately could adversely affect our business, financial results and capital requirements.

We must accurately evaluate and pay claims that are made under our policies. Many factors affect our ability to pay claims accurately, including the training and experience of our claims representatives, the culture of our claims organization and the effectiveness of our management, our ability to develop or select and implement appropriate procedures and systems to support our claims functions and other factors. Our failure to pay claims accurately could lead to material litigation, undermine our reputation in the marketplace, impair our image and negatively affect our financial results.

In addition, if we do not train new claims adjusting employees effectively or if we lose a significant number of experienced claims adjusting employees, our claims department's ability to handle an increasing workload as we grow could be adversely affected. In addition to potentially requiring that growth be slowed in the affected markets, we could suffer decreased quality of claims work, which in turn could lower our operating margins.

Our insurance company is subject to minimum capital and surplus requirements, and our failure to meet these requirements could subject us to regulatory action.

Our insurance company is subject to risk-based capital standards and other minimum capital and surplus requirements imposed under applicable state laws, including the laws of the State of Florida. The risk-based capital standards, based upon the Risk Based Capital Model Act adopted by the NAIC, require our insurance company to report their results of risk-based capital calculations to state departments of insurance and the NAIC. These risk-based capital standards provide for different levels of regulatory attention depending upon the ratio of an insurance company's total adjusted capital, as calculated in accordance with NAIC guidelines, to its authorized control level risk-based capital.

If we fail to meet the applicable risk-based capital or minimum statutory capital requirements imposed by the laws of Florida or other states where we do business, we could be subject to further examination or corrective action imposed by state regulators, including limitations on out writing of additional business, state supervision or liquidation, and may be required to raise additional capital. Similarly, an increase in existing risk-based capital requirements or minimum statutory capital requirements may require us to increase our statutory capital levels. As of December 31, 2014, FNIC was in compliance with the NAIC risk-based capital requirements (see "Business-Regulation" for further discussion).

- 27 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our revenues and operating performance may fluctuate with business cycles in the property and casualty insurance industry.

Historically, the financial performance of the property and casualty insurance industry has tended to fluctuate in cyclical patterns characterized by periods of significant competition in pricing and underwriting terms and conditions, which is known as a "soft" insurance market, followed by periods of lessened competition and increasing premium rates, which is known as a "hard" insurance market. Although an individual insurance company's financial performance is dependent on its own specific business characteristics, the profitability of most property and casualty insurance companies tends to follow this cyclical market pattern, with profitability generally increasing in hard markets and decreasing in soft markets. At present, we are experiencing a softening market in the property and casualty market in Florida because of increased competition. We cannot predict, however, how long these market conditions will persist. Although we do not compete entirely on price or targeted market share, negative market conditions may impair our ability to write insurance at rates that we consider appropriate relative to the risk assumed. If we cannot write insurance at appropriate rates, our revenues and operating performance may be adversely affected.

We may not obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to expand the types of insurance products we offer or the states in which we operate.

The insurance industry is highly regulated. Prior to selling a new insurance product in a state, we must obtain approval from the applicable state insurance regulators. The insurance regulators in states to which we might apply may request additional information, add conditions to the license that we find unacceptable, or deny our application. This would delay or prevent us from operating in that state. If we want to operate in any additional states, we must file similar applications for licenses, which we may not be successful in obtaining.

Adverse ratings by insurance rating agencies may adversely impact our ability to write new policies, renew desirable policies or obtain adequate insurance, which could limit or halt our growth and harm our business.

Third-party rating agencies assess and rate the ability of insurers to pay their claims. These financial strength ratings are used by the insurance industry to assess the financial strength and quality of insurers. These ratings are based on criteria established by the rating agencies and reflect evaluations of each insurer's profitability, debt and cash levels, customer base, adequacy and soundness of reinsurance, quality and estimated market value of assets, adequacy of reserves, and management. Ratings are based upon factors of concern to agents, reinsurers and policyholders and are not directed toward the protection of investors, such as purchasers of our common stock.

The withdrawal of our ratings could limit or prevent us from writing or renewing desirable insurance policies, from competing with insurers who have higher ratings, from obtaining adequate reinsurance, or from borrowing on a line of credit.

The withdrawal or downgrade of our ratings could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position because our insurance products might no longer be acceptable to the secondary marketplace and mortgage lenders. Furthermore, a withdrawal or downgrade of our ratings could prevent independent agents from selling and servicing our insurance products or could increase the commissions we must pay to these agents.

We rely on independent and general agents to write our insurance policies, and if we are not able to attract and retain independent and general agents, our revenues would be negatively affected.

We currently market and distribute our products and services through contractual relationships with a network of approximately 3,600 independent agents, of which approximately 2,300 actively sell and service our products, and a selected number of general agents. Our independent agents are our primary source for our property and liability

insurance policies. Many of our competitors also rely on independent agents. As a result, we must compete with other insurers for independent agents' business. Our competitors may offer a greater variety of insurance products, lower premiums for insurance coverage, or higher commissions to their agents. If our products, pricing and commissions do not remain competitive, we may find it more difficult to attract business from independent agents to sell our products. A material reduction in the amount of our products that independent agents sell or a material reduction in the number of independent agents with whom we maintain a relationship could negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

In February 2013, we entered into an Insurance Agency Master Agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc., or ISA, an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, or Allstate, pursuant to which we are authorized by ISA to appoint Allstate agents to offer our homeowners' and commercial general liability insurance products to consumers in Florida. Since that time, our homeowners' premiums and the percentage of homeowners' premiums attributable to Allstate agents has increased rapidly. During 2014, 33.4% of the homeowners' premiums we underwrote were from Allstate's network of Florida agents, and this concentration may continue to increase. An interruption or change in our relationship with ISA could have a material adverse effect on the amount of premiums we are able to write, as well as our results of operations.

- 28 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our business could be materially and adversely affected by a security breach or other attack involving our computer systems or the systems of one or more of our business partners or vendors.

Our business requires that we build and maintain computer systems to run our operations and to store the significant volume of data that we acquire, including the personal confidential information of our customers, agents and employees and our intellectual property, trade secrets, and other sensitive business and financial information. These systems are subject to attacks by sophisticated third parties with substantial computing resources and capabilities. Such attacks may include, among other things, attempts to gain unauthorized access to this confidential or proprietary data or attempts to disrupt or shut down the system. Additionally, an employee, consultant, vendor representative or other person with legitimate access to our systems may take actions, or be the subject of a security breach or cyber attack, which could result in improper or unauthorized access to our systems, and in the loss or theft of our intellectual property or the personal information of our customers, agents or employees.

We undertake substantial efforts to protect our systems and sensitive or confidential information. These efforts include internal processes and technological defenses that are preventative or detective, and other controls designed to provide multiple layers of security protection. While we expend significant resources on these defensive measures, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in preventing attacks or detecting and stopping them once they have begun.

We also conduct significant business functions and computer operations using the systems of third-party business partners and vendors, who provide software, hosting, communication, and other computer services to us. These third-party systems may experience cyber attacks and other security breaches, which could result in the loss, theft or unauthorized publication of our information or the confidential information of our customers, agents or employees.

Our business could be significantly damaged by a security breach, data loss or corruption, or cyber attack. In addition to the potentially high costs of investigating and stopping such an event and implementing necessary fixes, we could incur substantial liability if confidential customer, agent or employee information is stolen. This could cause a significant disruption of our ability to conduct our insurance operations, adversely affect our competitive position if trade secrets or other proprietary information is stolen, and have severe ramifications on our reputation and brand, resulting in a materially adverse effect on our ability to generate new and renewal business. To mitigate these costs, we carry a cyber-liability insurance policy. Our insurance may not be sufficient to protect against all financial and other loss. Additionally, this policy will not afford us coverage for security breaches, data loss, or cyber attacks experienced by our third-party business partners who have access to our customer, agent, or employee data.

We rely on our information technology and telecommunications systems, and the failure of these systems could disrupt our operations.

Our business is highly dependent upon the successful and uninterrupted functioning of our current information technology and telecommunications systems. We rely on these systems to process new and renewal business, provide customer service, make claims payments and facilitate collections and cancellations, as well as to perform actuarial and other analytical functions necessary for pricing and product development. As a result, the failure of these systems could interrupt our operations and adversely affect our financial results. We utilize a third-party to provide certain information security related services designed to prevent an information security event or detect one timely. Although we have implemented security measures to protect our systems from computer viruses and intrusions by third parties, there can be no assurances that these measures will be effective.

Nonstandard automobile insurance historically has a higher frequency of claims than standard automobile insurance, thereby increasing our potential for loss exposure beyond what we would be likely to experience if we offered only standard automobile insurance.

Nonstandard automobile insurance is provided to insureds that are unable to obtain preferred or standard insurance coverage because of their payment histories, driving records, age, vehicle types, or prior claims histories. This type of automobile insurance historically has a higher frequency of claims than does preferred or standard automobile insurance policies, although the average dollar amount of the claim is usually smaller under nonstandard insurance policies. As a result, we are exposed to the possibility of increased loss exposure and higher claims experience than would be the case if we offered only standard automobile insurance.

- 29 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Florida's personal injury protection insurance statute contains provisions that favor claimants, causing us to experience a higher frequency of claims than might otherwise be the case if we operated only outside of Florida.

Florida's personal injury protection insurance statute limits an insurer's ability to deny benefits for medical treatment that is unrelated to the accident, that is unnecessary, or that is fraudulent. In addition, the statute allows claimants to obtain awards for attorney's fees. Although this statute has been amended several times in recent years, primarily to address concerns over fraud, the Florida legislature has been only marginally successful in implementing effective mechanisms that allow insurers to combat fraud and other abuses. We believe that this statute contributes to a higher frequency of claims under nonstandard automobile insurance policies in Florida, as compared with claims under standard automobile insurance policies in Florida and nonstandard and standard automobile insurance policies in other states. Although we believe that we have successfully offset these higher costs with premium increases, because of competition, we may not be able to do so with as much success in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our success depends on our ability to accurately price the risks we underwrite.

The results of operations and the financial condition of our insurance company depend on our ability to underwrite and set premium rates accurately for a wide variety of risks. Rate adequacy is necessary to generate sufficient premiums to pay losses, LAE and underwriting expenses and to earn a profit. In order to price our products accurately, we must collect and properly analyze a substantial amount of data; develop, test and apply appropriate rating formulas; closely monitor and timely recognize changes in trends; and project both severity and frequency of losses with reasonable accuracy. Our ability to undertake these efforts successfully and price our products accurately is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, some of which are outside our control, including:

- •the availability of sufficient reliable data and our ability to properly analyze available data;
- •the uncertainties that inherently characterize estimates and assumptions;
- our selection and application of appropriate rating and pricing techniques;
- ·changes in legal standards, claim settlement practices, medical care expenses and restoration costs;
- ·regulatory restrictions; and
- ·legislatively imposed consumer initiatives.

Consequently, we could under-price risks, which would negatively affect our profit margins, or we could overprice risks, which could reduce our sales volume and competitiveness. In either event, the profitability of our insurance company could be materially and adversely affected.

Current operating resources are necessary to develop future new insurance products.

We currently intend to expand our product offerings by underwriting additional insurance products and programs, and marketing them through our distribution network. Expansion of our product offerings will result in increases in expenses due to additional costs incurred in actuarial rate justifications, software and personnel. Offering additional insurance products may also require regulatory approval, further increasing our costs. There can be no assurance that we will be successful bringing new insurance products to our marketplace in a manner that is profitable.

Increased competition, competitive pressures, industry developments and market conditions could affect the growth of our business and adversely impact our financial results.

We operate in highly competitive markets and face competition from national, regional and residual market insurance companies in the homeowners', commercial general liability, and automobile markets, many of whom are larger, have greater financial and other resources, have higher financial strength ratings and offer more diversified insurance coverage. Our competitors include companies that market their products through agents, as well as companies that sell insurance directly to their customers. Large national writers may have certain competitive advantages over agency writers, including increased name recognition, increased loyalty of their customer base and reduced policy acquisition costs. We may be forced to reduce our premiums significantly to compete, which could make us less profitable and have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. If we do not meet the prices offered by our competitors, we may lose business in the short term, which could also result in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

- 30 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our ability to compete successfully in states outside of Florida and to expand our business footprint may also be negatively affected by our lack of an A. M. Best rating of our financial strength. Although our insurance subsidiary has a Demotech rating of "A" (Exceptional), which is generally accepted in Florida and certain other states, a rating by A. M. Best is more widely accepted outside of Florida and may cause customers and agents to prefer a policy written by an A. M. Best-rated company over a policy written by us. In addition, some mortgage companies outside of Florida may require homeowners to obtain property insurance from an insurance company with a minimum A. M. Best rating.

We may not obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to organize the new property and casualty insurer in Florida that is the subject of our previously announced joint venture.

On July 21, 2014, we announced that we have entered into a joint venture to form a new property and casualty insurer in Florida to be named Monarch National Insurance Company ("Monarch"). As of the date of this report, the approval of the Florida OIR is pending. We may not be able to obtain the necessary approvals and any approvals received may be subject to conditions that will make organization of a new insurer impractical. Therefore, there can be no assurances that we will be able to achieve the purpose of the joint venture.

Once Monarch is organized, we will be required to consolidate Monarch's financial results with ours. As a result, our financial results may be impacted by our percentage share of any losses that Monarch would be likely to experience in its first years of operations.

We will own approximately 42.4% of the indirect parent of Monarch ("Monarch Parent"), which, together with our expected management of Monarch's operations, will require us to consolidate Monarch Parent's financial results with ours under generally accepted accounting principles. Monarch Parent may experience operating losses as Monarch scales up its operations. As a result, our financial results may be negatively impacted to the extent that our percentage share of any losses exceeds the income earned as a result of the managing general agent services, we expect to provide Monarch.

We anticipate that Monarch will initially focus on the Florida homeowners' insurance market, which will increase our exposure to the factors that impact the Florida insurance market generally, such as the occurrence of hurricanes, trends in claims experience, and the impact of changes in Florida insurance law and regulations.

Monarch is intended to be organized as a Florida property and casualty insurer and, once organized, will initially focus primarily on the Florida homeowners' insurance market. As a result, the presence of Monarch in the Florida market will increase our exposure to the factors that impact insurers in the Florida market generally, such as the occurrence of catastrophic events such as hurricanes, the trends experienced in administering and resolving claims resulting from the increased use of private adjusters, and the impact of changes in Florida's insurance laws and regulations. To the extent that these factors may adversely affect our operations, the presence of Monarch in the Florida market will have the effect of magnifying the effect of those factors.

It is intended that Monarch will write insurance policies that will have a higher risk profile than those written by FNIC, allowing Monarch to reach a broader market and charge higher premiums. While Monarch's underwriting standards will avoid the highest risk policies, the occurrence of a catastrophic event could result in greater losses per policy for Monarch and have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

Our participation in the Florida Property Insurance Clearinghouse may not result in an increase in our premium revenue.

Pursuant to legislation passed by the Florida legislature in 2013 intended to reduce the insurance policy count of Citizens, a Florida not-for-profit, tax-exempt government corporation, the Property Insurance Clearinghouse (the "Clearinghouse") launched in January 2014. This allows all potentially new and renewal policies of Citizens to be comparatively shopped by participating private market insurers before becoming, or remaining, policies of Citizens. We intend to be a participating insurance company in the Clearinghouse.

Applications to Citizens for new homeowners' policies and existing policies with Citizens up for renewal are submitted to insurance companies participating in the Clearinghouse. If that process identifies a carrier willing to write a new policy at a premium that is no more than 15% higher than Citizens' premium of comparable coverage or, in the case of a renewal, with a premium equal to or less than the policy's renewal premium with Citizens, then that homeowner is ineligible for coverage with Citizens. The homeowner may then choose to have an agent bind coverage with the homeowner's choice of the private market insurers that have made the homeowner a qualifying offer of coverage.

- 31 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

There can be no assurance that our policy count or gross premiums will increase as a result of our participation in the Clearinghouse, because our premiums may not be below the threshold required by Citizens, other carriers participating in the Clearinghouse may be willing to offer similar policies for lower premiums, or we may decide to not provide a quote on these policies if they do not meet our underwriting guidelines.

Our senior management team is critical to the strategic direction of our company. If there were an unplanned loss of service by any of our officers our business could be harmed.

We depend, and will continue to depend, on the services of our executive management team which includes Michael H. Braun, Chief Executive Officer and President and Peter J. Prygelski III, our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Our success also will depend in part upon our ability to attract and retain qualified executive officers, experienced underwriting talent and other skilled employees who are knowledgeable about our business. If we were to lose the services of one or more members of our executive management team, our business could be adversely affected. Although we have employment agreements with our executive officers, any unplanned loss of service could substantially harm our business.

We are subject to extensive regulation and potential further restrictive regulation may increase our operating costs and limit our growth.

As an insurance company, we are subject to extensive laws and regulations. These laws and regulations are complex and subject to change. Moreover, they are administered and enforced by a number of different governmental authorities, including state insurance regulators, state securities administrators, the SEC, the U.S. Department of Justice, and state attorneys general, each of which exercises a degree of interpretive latitude. Consequently, we are subject to the risk that compliance with any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue may not result in compliance with another's interpretation of the same issue, particularly when compliance is judged in hindsight. In addition, there is risk that any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue may change over time to our detriment, or that changes in the overall legal environment may, even absent any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue changing, cause us to change our views regarding the actions we need to take from a legal risk management perspective, thus necessitating changes to our practices that may, in some cases, limit our ability to grow and improve the profitability of our business.

Furthermore, in some cases, these laws and regulations are designed to protect or benefit the interests of a specific constituency rather than a range of constituencies. For example, state insurance laws and regulations are generally intended to protect or benefit purchasers or users of insurance products, not holders of securities issued by us. In many respects, these laws and regulations limit our ability to grow and improve the profitability of our business.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under public scrutiny and members of Congress have discussed proposals to provide for federal chartering of insurance companies. We can make no assurances regarding the potential impact of state or federal measures that may change the nature or scope of insurance regulation.

New homeowners' insurance operations outside of the State of Florida may not be profitable.

We plan to continue the expansion of admitted homeowners' property and casualty programs into other states as opportunities avail themselves. Risks associated with execution of our planned operations include the inability to market an adequately priced policy, inadequate commission structures, and overpriced or unavailable catastrophic reinsurance for wind events. Additionally, each state has its own authoritative body designed to regulate the insurance products and operations of new and existing insurance companies under their respective authority. For example, during 2013 FNIC obtained regulatory approval to initiate a new homeowners' property and casualty program in the

State of Louisiana.

There can be no guarantees that our operations will be profitable in a given state nor can there be any guarantees that the state authorities will allow us to do business in that state.

We face risks in connection with potential material weakness resulting from our Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 management report and any related remedial measures that we undertake.

In conjunction with our ongoing reporting obligations as a public company and the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, management reported on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. In order to identify any material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, we engaged in a process to document, evaluate and test our internal controls and procedures, including corrections to existing controls and implement additional controls and procedures that we may deem necessary. As a result of this evaluation and testing process, no material financial reporting deficiencies were noted.

- 32 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Although we did not have any material weaknesses in our internal controls for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, we cannot be certain that there will be none in the future. In future periods, if the process required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act reveals significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, the correction of any such significant deficiencies or material weaknesses could require additional remedial measures that could be costly and time-consuming. In addition, the discovery of material weaknesses could also require the restatement of prior period operating results. If a material weakness exists as of a future period year-end (including a material weakness identified prior to year-end for which there is an insufficient period of time to evaluate and confirm the effectiveness of the corrections or related new procedures), our management will be unable to report favorably as of such future period year-end as to the effectiveness of our control over financial reporting and we could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which could have an adverse effect on our stock price and potentially subject us to litigation.

#### Risks Related to an Investment in Our Shares

Our stock price in recent years has been volatile and is likely to continue to be volatile. As a result, the market price of our common stock may drop below the price you pay, and you may not be able to resell your shares at a profit.

The market price of our common stock has experienced, and may continue to experience, significant volatility from time to time. Such volatility may be affected by various factors and events, such as:

- our quarterly operating results, including a shortfall in operating revenue or net income from that expected by securities analysts and investors;
- ·recognition of large unanticipated accounting charges, such as related to a loss reserve enhancement;
- changes in securities analysts' estimates of our financial performance or the financial performance of our competitors or companies in our industry generally;
- the announcement of a material event or anticipated event involving us or our industry or the markets in which we operate;
- ·the issuance of a significant number of shares; and
- the other risk factors described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein.

In recent years, the U.S. stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations, which have sometimes affected the market price of the securities issued by a particular company in a manner unrelated to the operational performance of the company. This type of market effect could impact our common stock price as well. The volatility of our common stock means that the price of our common stock may have declined substantially at such time as you may look to sell your shares of our common stock. If our share price decreases, the value of your investment could decline.

If we report a material weakness in our internal controls and procedures, we may lose investor confidence and remedial measures may be costly.

In accordance with applicable law, we are required to document, evaluate and test our internal controls and procedures, including corrections to existing controls and implement additional controls and procedures that we may

deem necessary, and to identify and report any material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting. As a result of this evaluation and testing process, no material weakness was identified or reported as of December 31, 2014. In fixture periods, if the process required by law reveals significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, the correction of any such significant deficiencies or material weaknesses could require additional remedial measures that could be costly and time consuming. In addition, the discovery of material weaknesses could also require the restatement of prior period operating results. If a material weakness exists and is reported as of a future period year-end (including a material weakness identified prior to year-end for which there is an insufficient period of time to evaluate and confirm the effectiveness of the corrections or related new procedures), we could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which could have an adverse effect on our stock price and potentially subject us to litigation.

No system of internal control over financial reporting will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control systems objectives will be met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. Over time, controls may become inadequate because changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may occur. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. As a result, we cannot assure you that significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting will be identified in the future.

- 33 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Our controls and procedures may fail or be circumvented which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We regularly review and update our internal controls, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. Any system of controls, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Any failure or circumvention of our controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We have authorized but unissued preferred stock, which could affect rights of holders of common stock.

Our articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of preferred stock with designations, rights and preferences determined from time to time by our board of directors. Accordingly, our board of directors is empowered, without shareholder approval, to issue preferred stock with dividends, liquidation, conversion, voting or other rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of common stock. In addition, the preferred stock could be issued as a method of discouraging a takeover attempt. Although we do not intend to issue any preferred stock at this time, we may do so in the future.

Provisions in our articles of incorporation and our bylaws, as amended, and the Florida Business Corporation Act could make it more difficult to acquire us and may reduce the market price of our common stock.

Our articles of incorporation and our bylaws presently contain certain provisions which may make it more difficult and time-consuming for shareholders or third parties to influence our management, policies or affairs, and may discourage, delay or prevent a transaction involving a change-in-control of the Company and offering a premium over the current market price of our common stock. These provisions include those which:

- •prohibit cumulative voting in the election of our directors,
- ·establish a classified board of directors with staggered three-year terms,
- provide that the written request of shareholders holding not less than one-third of all votes entitled to be cast on an issue is required for shareholders to call special meetings of our shareholders,
- establish advance notice and disclosure procedures for shareholders to bring matters, including nominations for election to our board, before a meeting of our shareholders, and
- ·eliminate the ability of shareholders to take action by written consent in lieu of a shareholder meeting.

As a result, we may be less likely to receive unsolicited offers to acquire us that some of our shareholders might consider beneficial.

The Florida Business Corporation Act, as amended, contains provisions, which our directors have elected not to opt out of, that are designed to enhance the ability of our board to respond to and potentially defer attempts to acquire control of the Company. These provisions may discourage altogether takeover attempts that have not been approved by our board. These provisions may also adversely affect the price that a potential purchaser would be willing to pay for our common stock and, therefore, deprive you of the opportunity to obtain a takeover premium for your shares. These provisions could make the removal of our incumbent directors and management more difficult. These provisions may enable a minority of our directors and the holders of a minority of our outstanding voting stock or the

holders of an existing control block to prevent, delay, discourage or make more difficult a merger, tender offer or proxy contest, even though the transaction may be favorable to the interests of a majority of our non-affiliate shareholders. These provisions could also potentially adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

- 34 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

As a holding company, we depend on the earnings of our subsidiaries and their ability to pay management fees and dividends to the holding company as the primary source of our income.

We are an insurance holding company whose primary assets are the stock of our subsidiaries. Our operations, and our ability to pay dividends or service future potential debt, are limited by the earnings of our subsidiaries and their payment of their earnings to us in the form of management fees, commissions, dividends, loans, advances or the reimbursement of expenses. These payments can be made only when our subsidiaries have adequate earnings. In addition, dividend payments made to us by our insurance subsidiary are restricted by Florida law governing the insurance industry. Generally, Florida law limits the dividends payable by insurance companies under complicated formulas based on the subsidiary's available capital and earnings.

Payment of dividends in the future will depend on our earnings and financial position and such other factors, as our Board of Directors deems relevant. Moreover, our ability to continue to pay dividends may be restricted by regulatory limits on the amount of dividends that FNIC is permitted to pay to the parent company.

Future sales of our common stock may depress our stock price.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market or otherwise, by us or by a major shareholder, could depress the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities.

In addition, we may issue additional shares of our common stock from time to time in the future in amounts that may be significant. The sale of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the perception that these sales may occur, could adversely impact our stock price.

As of December 31, 2014, there were 151,585 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding and exercisable stock options, 67,700 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options that are unvested and 750,500 additional shares available for grant under our equity-based compensation plans. The market price of the common shares may be depressed by the potential exercise of these options or grant of these shares. The holders of these options are likely to exercise them when we would otherwise be able to obtain additional capital on more favorable terms than those provided by the options.

# **ITEM 1B UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None

#### **ITEM 2 PROPERTIES**

Our executive offices are now located at 14050 N.W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 180, Sunrise, Florida 33323 in an 18,500 square foot office facility and our telephone number is (800) 293-2532. During March 2014, we extended our lease term to expire in August 2019 and expanded the leased premises to include an additional 13,642 square feet. All of our operations are consolidated within this facility. We believe that the facilities are well maintained, in substantial compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and adequately covered by insurance. We also believe that these leased facilities are not unique and could be replaced, if necessary, at the end of the lease term.

#### ITEM 3 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

See Item 8 of Part II, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data – Footnote 9 – Commitments and Contingencies".

# ITEM 4 MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

- 35 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

#### **PART II**

# ITEM MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is listed for trading on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "FNHC". The following table sets out the high and low closing sale prices as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market. These reported prices reflect inter-dealer prices without adjustments for retail markups, markdowns or commissions.

Quarter Ended	High	Low
March 31, 2014	\$18.40	\$12.17
June 30, 2014	\$26.60	\$18.02
September 30, 2014	\$28.22	\$19.70
December 31, 2014	\$37.04	\$23.60
March 31, 2013	\$7.90	\$5.35
June 30, 2013	\$10.41	\$7.05
September 30, 2013		
September 50, 2015	\$10.89	\$8.43
December 31, 2013	\$10.89 \$14.90	\$8.43 \$9.80

As of March 2, 2015, there were 55 holders of record of our common stock. We believe that the number of beneficial owners of our common stock is in excess of 6,250.

#### **DIVIDENDS**

The Board of Directors of FNHC declared regular quarterly dividends as follows:

•\$0.04 per common share payable on March 2, 2015 to shareholders of record as of February 2, 2015;

\$0.03 per common share payable on June 2, September 2 and December 1, 2014 to shareholders of record as of May 5, August 4 and November 3, 2014;

\$0.03 per common share payable on September 3 and December 2, 2013 and March 3, 2014 to shareholders of record as of August 5 and November 4, 2013 and February 3, 2014;

\$0.02 per common share payable on December 28, 2012 and March 4, 2013 to shareholders of record as of December 3, 2012 and February 4, 2013.

Payment of dividends in the future will depend on our earnings and financial position and such other factors, as our Board of Directors deems relevant. Moreover, our ability to continue to pay dividends may be restricted by regulatory limits on the amount of dividends that FNIC is permitted to pay to the parent company.

- 36 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

# SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

The following table summarizes our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2014. All equity compensation plans were approved by our shareholders. We have not granted any options, warrants or rights to our shareholders outside of these equity compensation plans.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information** 

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by stock holders*	667,086	12.55	750,500

<sup>\*</sup> Includes the 1998 and 2002 Stock Option Plans and the 2012 Stock Incentive Plan.

For additional information concerning our capitalization please see Footnote 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements included under Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

# **ISSUER REPURCHASES**

During 2014 and 2013, the Company did not repurchase any common stock under previously announced stock repurchase plans.

#### SALES OF UNREGISTERED SECURITIES

None.

- 37 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

# STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph shows the cumulative total shareholder return on our common stock over the last five fiscal years as compared with the total returns of the NASDAQ Composite Index and the SNL Property & Casualty Insurance Index. In accordance with SEC rules, this graph includes indices that we believe are comparable and appropriate.

# Federated National Holding Company

	Period Ending					
Index	12/31/09	12/31/10	12/31/11	12/31/12	12/31/13	12/31/14
Federated National Holding Company	100.00	81.60	75.95	137.77	382.67	634.22
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	118.15	117.22	138.02	193.47	222.16
SNL Insurance P&C	100.00	119.24	120.55	142.31	188.53	216.52

Source: SNL Financial LC, Charlottesville, VA

© 2015

www.snl.com

Returns are based on the change in year-end to year-end price. The graph assumes \$100 was invested on December 31, 2009 in our common stock, the NASDAQ Composite Index and the SNL Property & Casualty Insurance Index and that all dividends were reinvested. Past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future results.

Our filings with the SEC may incorporate information by reference, including this Form 10-K. Unless we specifically state otherwise, the information under this heading "Stock Performance Graph" shall not be deemed to be "soliciting materials" and shall not be deemed to be "filed" with the SEC or incorporated by reference into any of our filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

- 38 -

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

# ITEM 6 SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

	As of the Years Ended December 31, (Amounts in Thousands except Book Value Per Share)				
Balance Sheet Data	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Assets:					
Cash and investments	\$370,920	\$262,156	\$151,238	\$144,672	\$138,691
Total assets	503,631	316,741	185,888	179,980	184,049
Liabilities: Unpaid losses and LAE Unearned premiums Total liabilities	78,330 192,424 311,052	61,016 128,343 208,247	49,908 59,006 119,983	59,983 47,933 121,836	66,529 47,136 126,118
Total shareholders' equity	192,579	108,494	65,905	58,144	57,931
Book value per share	\$14.13	\$9.95	\$8.26	\$7.32	\$7.29
Statutory surplus	125,330	76,889	52,012	39,307	40,603
- 39 -					

<u>Table of Contents</u> Federated National Holding Company

	Years Ended December 31, (Amounts in Thousands except EPS and Dividends)				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Operations Data:					
Revenue:	¢277 156	\$243,373	\$119,459	\$98,269	\$96,410
Gross premiums written Gross premiums ceded	\$377,156 (201,998)	-	•	•	
Oloss premiums ceded	(201,770)	(02,700)	(31,003)	(40,273)	(32,703)
Net premiums written	175,158	160,665	68,374	51,976	43,447
Increase (decrease) in prepaid reinsurance premiums	59,828	13,052	2,059	(2,656)	(2,108)
(Increase) decrease in unearned premiums	(64,081)				3,721
•					
Net change in prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned					
premiums	(4,253)	(56,284)	(9,015)	(3,453)	1,613
Net premiums earned	170,905	104,381	59,359	48,523	45,060
Commission income	4,517	2,646	1,377	994	1,388
Finance revenue	1,466	866	496	518	395
Direct written policy fees	8,689	6,196	2,007	1,583	1,609
Net investment income	5,385	3,332	3,819	4,079	3,726
Net realized investment gains	4,426	2,881	1,072	2,725	6,777
Regulatory assessments recovered	-	-	-	-	857
Other income	2,512	1,435	517	1,741	792
Quota-share profit sharing, net	2,792	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	200,692	121,737	68,647	60,163	60,604
Expenses:					
Losses and LAE	81,036	56,410	30,209	30,896	40,088
Operating and underwriting expenses	19,906	14,474	9,996	9,916	10,835
Salaries and wages	14,968	10,188	8,439	8,004	8,611
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	27,475	21,447	13,255	12,347	13,025
Total expenses	143,385	102,519	61,899	61,163	72,559
Income (loss) before provision for income tax expense					
(benefit)	57,307	19,218	6,748	(1,000)	(11,955)
Provision for income tax expense (benefit)	20,108	6,491	2,435	(570 )	1 1 1 1 1
Net income (loss)	\$37,199	\$12,727	\$4,313	\$(430 )	\$(7,996)
Earnings per share data					
Net income (loss) per share - basic	\$3.08	\$1.50	\$0.53	\$(0.05)	\$(1.01)
Net income (loss) per share - diluted	\$2.99	\$1.45	\$0.53		\$(1.01)
Dividends paid per share	\$0.13	\$0.11	\$0.02	\$-	\$0.06

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

# ITEM 7 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### **OVERVIEW**

Federated National Holding Company ("FNHC", "Company", "we", "us"), formerly known as 21st Century Holding Company, is an insurance holding company that controls substantially all steps in the insurance underwriting, distribution and claims processes through our subsidiaries and our contractual relationships with our independent agents and general agents. We changed our name on September 11, 2012, pursuant to approval received at our annual shareholders' meeting, from 21st Century Holding Company so that our parent company and other subsidiary companies' names are consistent with our primary insurance subsidiary and the name under which we have been writing insurance for more than 23 years.

We are authorized to underwrite, and/or place through our wholly owned subsidiaries, homeowners' multi-peril ("homeowners"), commercial general liability, federal flood, personal auto and various other lines of insurance in Florida and various other states. We market and distribute our own and third-party insurers' products and our other services through a network of independent agents.

Our insurance subsidiary is Federated National Insurance Company ("FNIC"). FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Florida. An admitted carrier is an insurance company that has received a license from the state department of insurance giving the company the authority to write specific lines of insurance in that state. These companies are also bound by rate and form regulations, and are strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud. Admitted carriers are also required to financially contribute to the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders. Through contractual relationships with a network of approximately 3,600 independent agents, of which approximately 2,300 actively sell and service our products, FNIC is authorized to underwrite homeowners', commercial general liability, fire, allied lines and personal and commercial automobile insurance in Florida. FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas and underwrites commercial general liability insurance in those states. FNIC also underwrites homeowners' insurance in Louisiana and Alabama, commencing in October 2014. Additionally, we underwrite personal automobile insurance in Georgia and Texas.

FNIC is licensed as a non-admitted carrier in Missouri, Nevada and South Carolina and can underwrite commercial general liability insurance in all of these states. Currently, we do not have any operations in these states. A non-admitted carrier, sometimes referred to as an "excess and surplus lines" carrier, is permitted to do business in a state and, although it is strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud, non-admitted carriers are subject to considerably less regulation with respect to policy rates and forms.

Non-admitted carriers are not required to financially contribute to and benefit from the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders.

We internally process claims made by our insureds through our wholly owned claims adjusting company, Federated National Adjusting, Inc. ("FNA"). Our agents have no authority to settle claims or otherwise exercise control over the claims process. Furthermore, we believe that the retention of independent adjusters, in addition to the employment of salaried claims personnel, results in reduced ultimate loss payments, lower Losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") and improved customer service for our claimants and policyholders. We also employ an in-house litigation management team to cost effectively manage claims-related litigation and to monitor our claims handling practices for efficiency and regulatory compliance.

During 2014, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation ("Florida OIR") approved an application to allow the claims administration operations of FNA to be assumed by FedNat Underwriters, Inc. ("FNU"), formerly known as Federated National Underwriters Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Under the amended managing general agency agreement between FNU and FNIC, FNU will provide the same claims administration services under the same fee structure. The combination of these services in FNU had no effect on consolidated net income.

FNU acts as FNIC's exclusive managing general agent in Florida and is also licensed as a managing general agent in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina and Texas. FNU has contracted with other unaffiliated insurance companies to sell personal umbrella through FNU's existing network of agents.

FNU earns commissions and fees for providing policy administration, marketing, accounting and analytical services, and for participating in the negotiation of reinsurance contracts. FNU earns a per policy fee which ranges from \$25 to \$55 and a commission fee from its affiliate, FNIC, which totaled 4% during 2014. The Florida OIR periodically reviews our managing general agent's fee structure to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate to operate.

- 41 -

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The homeowner policy provides FNU the right to cancel any policy within a period of 90 days from the policy's inception with 25 days' notice, or after 90 days from policy inception with 95 days' notice, even if the risk falls within our underwriting criteria.

Although we are authorized to underwrite the various lines described above, our business is primarily underwriting homeowners' policies. During 2014, 91.4%, 3.3%, 2.0% and 3.3% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively. During 2014, \$39.6 million or 11.0% of the \$344.9 million of homeowners' premiums we underwrote were produced under an agency agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc. ("ISA"), an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, that grants Allstate agents the authority to offer certain FNU products. The \$39.6 million of homeowners' premiums produced under this agreement with ISA represents 31.0% of the total increase in the sale of homeowners' policies during 2014, compared with 2013. This network of agents began writing for FNIC in March 2013. During 2013, 89.6%, 4.3%, 2.6% and 3.5% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 or 2012, we did not experience any weather-related catastrophic events such as the hurricanes that occurred in Florida during 2005 and 2004. We are not able to predict how hurricanes or other insurable events will affect our future results of operations and liquidity. Losses and LAE are affected by a number of factors, many of which are partially or entirely beyond our control, including the following.

- ·the nature and severity of the loss;
- ·weather-related patterns;
- ·the availability, cost and terms of reinsurance;
- ·underlying settlement costs, including medical and legal costs;
- ·legal and political factors such as legislative initiatives and public opinion;
- ·macroeconomic issues.

Our business, results of operations and financial condition are subject to fluctuations due to a variety of factors. Abnormally high severity or frequency of claims in any period could have a material adverse effect on us. When our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are less than the actuarially determined amounts, we increase the expense in the current period. Conversely, when our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are greater than the actuarially determined amounts, we decrease the expense in the current period.

Our goal in our reinsurance strategy is to equalize the liquidity requirements imposed by most severe insurable events and by all other insurable events we manage in the normal course of business. Please see "Reinsurance Agreements" under "Item 1. Business" for a more detailed description of our reinsurance agreements and strategy.

#### Overview of Premium Growth

Gross premiums written increased \$133.8 million, or 55.0%, to \$377.2 million for 2014, compared with \$243.4 million for 2013. Florida homeowners' represents 94% and Texas private passenger automobile represents the remaining 6% of the increased premium volume. We believe that our growth in 2014 reflects management's efforts over several years. Our success today reflects our goal to be an agent-friendly carrier that provides exceptional service. We have invested in our agent relationships and our staff, created easy-to-use systems for the agent, and increased our relevance to the agents' operations by providing insurance products that meet their market needs.

Our homeowner business contributed \$126.6 million or 95.0% of the increased gross written premiums during the year ended December 31, 2014. This increase was the result of:

- ·policyholders continuing to renew their FNIC homeowners' policy,
- ·a "flight to quality" in the market by agents who seek quality carriers to place their business, and
- ·supporting a marketing team dedicated to promoting the quality and quantity of products and services that we offer.

- 42 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

During 2014, approximately 88% of our policyholders renewed their Florida homeowner policies. We believe that high retention rate reflects the confidence that the policyholder and his agent have in our financial stability and strength and in our commitment to adjusting claims quickly and fairly.

#### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Future events and their effects cannot be determined with absolute certainty. Therefore, the determination of estimates requires the exercise of judgment. Actual results inevitably will differ from those estimates, and such differences may be material to the financial statements.

The most significant accounting estimates inherent in the preparation of our financial statements include estimates associated with management's evaluation of the determination of (i) liability for unpaid losses and LAE, (ii) the amount and recoverability of amortization of Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs ("DPAC"), and (iii) estimates for our reserves with respect to finance contracts, premiums receivable and deferred income taxes. Various assumptions and other factors underlie the determination of these significant estimates, which are described in greater detail in Footnote 2 in this Form 10-K.

Except as described below, we believe that in 2014 there were no significant changes in those critical accounting policies and estimates. Senior management has reviewed the development and selection of our critical accounting policies and estimates and their disclosure in this Form 10-K with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors.

The process of determining significant estimates is fact-specific and takes into account factors such as historical experience, current and expected economic conditions, and in the case of unpaid losses and LAE, an actuarial valuation. Management regularly reevaluates these significant factors and makes adjustments where facts and circumstances dictate. In selecting the best estimate, we utilize various actuarial methodologies. Each of these methodologies is designed to forecast the number of claims we will be called upon to pay and the amounts we will pay on average to settle those claims. In arriving at our best estimate, our actuaries consider the likely predictive value of the various loss development methodologies employed in light of underwriting practices, premium rate changes and claim settlement practices that may have occurred, and weight the credibility of each methodology. Our actuarial methodologies take into account various factors, including, but not limited to, paid losses, liability estimates for reported losses, paid allocated LAE, salvage and other recoveries received, reported claim counts, open claim counts and counts for claims closed with and without payment for loss.

Accounting for loss contingencies pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued guidance involves the existence of a condition, situation or set of circumstances involving uncertainty as to possible loss that will ultimately be resolved when one or more future event(s) occur or fail to occur. Additionally, accounting for a loss contingency requires management to assess each event as probable, reasonably possible or remote. Probable is defined as the future event or events are likely to occur. Reasonably possible is defined as the chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than probable, while remote is defined as the chance of the future event or events occurring is slight. An estimated loss in connection with a loss contingency shall be recorded by a charge to current operations if both of the following conditions are met: First, the amount can be reasonably estimated, and second, the information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred at the date of the financial statements. It is implicit in this condition that it is probable that one or more future events will occur confirming the fact of the loss or incurrence of a liability.

FASB issued guidance addresses accounting and reporting for (a) investments in equity securities that have readily determinable fair values and (b) all investments in debt securities. We account for our investment securities consistent with FASB issued guidance that requires our securities to be classified into one of three categories: (i) held-to-maturity, (ii) trading securities or (iii) available-for-sale.

Investments classified as held-to-maturity include debt securities wherein the Company's intent and ability are to hold the investment until maturity and are carried at amortized cost without consideration to unrealized gains or losses. Investments classified as trading securities include debt and equity securities bought and held primarily for sale in the near term and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses included in current period operations. Investments classified as available-for-sale include debt and equity securities that are not classified as held-to-maturity or as trading security investments and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of shareholders' equity, namely "Other Comprehensive Income."

- 43 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Overview of Management's Loss Reserving Process

The Company's loss reserves can generally be categorized into two distinct groups. One group is short-tail classes of business consisting principally of property risks in connection with homes and automobiles. The other group is long-tail casualty classes of business which include primarily commercial general liability and to a much lesser extent, homeowner and automobile liability. For operations writing short-tail coverages our loss reserves were generally geared toward determining an expected loss ratio for current business rather than maintaining a reserve for the outstanding exposure. Estimations of ultimate net loss reserves for long-tail casualty classes of business is a more complex process and depends on a number of factors including class and volume of business involved. Experience in the more recent accident years of long-tail casualty classes of business shows limited statistical credibility in reported net losses because a relatively low proportion of net losses would be reported claims and expenses and even smaller percentage would be net losses paid. Therefore, incurred but not yet reported ("IBNR") would constitute a relatively high proportion of net losses.

Additionally, the different methodologies are utilized the same, regardless of the line of business. However, the final selection of ultimate loss and LAE is certain to vary by both line of business and by accident period maturity. There is no prescribed combination of line of business, accident year maturity, and methodologies; consistency in results of the different methodologies and reasonableness of the result are the primary factors that drive the final selection of ultimate loss and LAE.

Methods Used to Estimate Loss and LAE Reserves

The methods we use for our short-tail business do not differ from the methods we use for our long-tail business. The Incurred and Paid Development Methods intrinsically recognize the unique development characteristics contained within the historical experience of each material short-tail and long-tail line of business. The Incurred and Paid Cape Cod Methods reflect similar historical development unique to each material short-tail and long-tail line of business.

We apply the following general methods in projecting loss and LAE reserves:

- ·Paid and Incurred Loss Development Method
- ·Paid and Incurred Bornhuetter-Ferguson Incurred Method
- ·Frequency / Severity Method

Description of Ultimate Loss Estimation Methods

The estimated Ultimate Loss and Defense and Cost Containment Expense ("DCCE") is based on an analysis by line of business, coverage and by accident quarter performed using data as of December 31, 2014. The analysis relies primarily on four actuarial methods: Incurred Loss and DCCE Development Method, Paid Loss and DCCE Development Method, Bornhuetter-Ferguson Incurred Method, and Bornhuetter-Ferguson Paid Method. Each method relies on company experience, and, where relevant, the analysis includes comparisons to industry experience. The following is a description of each of these methods:

Incurred Loss and DCCE Development Method – This reserving method is based on the assumption that the historical incurred loss and DCCE development pattern as reflected by the Company is appropriate for estimating the future loss & DCCE development. Incurred paid plus case amounts separated by accident quarter of occurrence and at quarterly

evaluations are used in this analysis. Case reserves do not have to be adequately stated for this method to be effective; they only need to have a fairly consistent level of adequacy at all stages of maturity. Historical "age-to-age" loss development factors were calculated to measure the relative development of an accident quarter from one maturity point to the next. Loss and DCCE development factors ("LDF") are selected based on a review of the historical relationships between incurred loss & DCCE at successive valuations and based on industry patterns. The LDFs are multiplied together to derive cumulative LDF's that, when multiplied by actual incurred loss and DCCE, produce estimates of ultimate loss and DCCE.

Paid Loss & DCCE Development Method – This method is similar to the Incurred Loss & DCCE Development Method only paid loss & DCCE and paid patterns are substituted for the incurred loss & DCCE and incurred patterns.

Bornhuetter-Ferguson Incurred Method – This reserving method combines estimated initial expected unreported loss & DCCE with the actual loss & DCCE to yield the ultimate loss & DCCE estimate. Expected unreported loss & DCCE are equal to expected total loss & DCCE times the expected unreported percentage of loss & DCCE for each policy year. The incurred loss & DCCE emergence pattern used to determine the unreported percentages in our projections is based on the selected LDF's from the Incurred Loss & DCCE Development Method described above. The estimate of initial expected total loss & DCCE is based on the historical loss ratio for more mature accident years. While this approach reduces the independence of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson Method from the loss & DCCE development methods for older policy years, it is used primarily for estimating ultimate loss & DCCE for more recent, less mature, policy years.

- 44 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Bornhuetter-Ferguson Paid Method – This method is similar to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson Incurred Method only paid loss & DCCE and paid patterns are substituted for the incurred loss & DCCE and incurred patterns.

We select an estimate of ultimate loss & DCCE for each accident quarter after considering the results of each projection method for the quarter and the relative maturity of the quarter (the time elapsed between the start of the quarter and December 31, 2014). Reserves for unpaid losses & DCCE for each quarter are the differences between these ultimate estimates and the amount already paid. The reserves for each quarter and each coverage are summed, and the result is the overall estimate of unpaid losses & DCCE liability for the company.

We also produce an estimate of unpaid Adjusting and Other Expense ("A&O"), as a reserve is required under Statutory Accounting Principles ("SAP") even if this expense has been pre-paid or with an unconsolidated affiliate. Although we do not prepay for A&O, the majority of the A&O incurred is with an affiliated company and eliminated under the accounting principles for consolidation. The unpaid A&O is added to unpaid losses & DCCE, resulting in total unpaid losses and LAE.

The validity of the results from using a loss development approach can be affected by many conditions, such as internal claim department processing changes, a shift between single and multiple claim payments, legal changes, or variations in a company's mix of business from year to year. Also, since the percentage of losses paid for immature years is often low, development factors can be volatile. A small variation in the number of claims paid can have a leveraging effect that could lead to significant changes in estimated ultimate values. Accordingly, our reserves are estimates because there are uncertainties inherent in the determination of ultimate losses. Court decisions, regulatory changes and economic conditions can affect the ultimate cost of claims that occurred in the past as well as create uncertainties regarding future loss cost trends. We compute our estimated ultimate liability using the most appropriate principles and procedures applicable to the lines of business written. However, because the establishment of loss reserves is an inherently uncertain process, we cannot be certain that ultimate losses will not exceed the established loss reserves and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Frequency / Severity Method – This method separately estimates the two components of ultimate losses (the frequency, or number of claims and the severity, or cost per claim) and then combines the resulting estimates in a multiplicative fashion to estimate ultimate losses. The approach is valuable because sometimes there is more inherent stability in the frequency and severity data when viewed separately than in the total losses.

We developed reported claim counts to ultimate levels using the development approach. The mechanics of this approach are the same as we described previously for paid and incurred losses. The validity of the results of this method depends on the stability of claim reporting and settlement rates. Then we developed accident year incurred severities (incurred losses divided by reported claim counts) to ultimate levels using the development approach.

We trended these severities to accident year 2014 levels. Trend rates were selected based on a review of historical severities. Selected severity was chosen based on judgment considering the developed severities and the trended severities, considering industry benchmarks for each segment. The loss & ALAE, claim count and severity triangles are evaluated as of 12 months, 24 months, 36 months etc. We selected loss development factors based on the loss development history, to the extent credible, and supplemented with industry data where appropriate.

A key assumption underlying the estimation of the reserve for loss and LAE is that past experience serves as the most reliable estimator of future events. This assumption may materially affect the estimates when the insurance market, the regulatory environment, the legal environment, the economic environment, the book of business, the claims handling department, or other factors (known or unknown) have varied over time during the experience period and / or

will vary (expectedly or unexpectedly) in the future. Changes in estimates, or differences between estimates and amounts ultimately paid, are reflected in the operating results of the period during which such adjustments are made. Therefore, the ultimate liability for unpaid losses and LAE will likely differ from the amount recorded at December 31, 2014.

- 45 -

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following describes the extent of our procedures for determining the reserve for loss and LAE on both an annual and interim reporting basis:

Annually - Our policy is to select a single point estimate that best reflects our in-house actuarial determination for unpaid losses and LAE. Our independent actuarial firm, examining the exact same data set, will independently select a point estimate which determines a high point and low point range. Both processes rely on objective and subjective determinations. If our point estimate falls within the range determined from the point estimate of our actuary, then the Company's policy has been that no adjustments by management would be required. In consideration thereof, the company does not have a policy for adjusting the liability for unpaid losses and LAE to an amount that is different than an amount set forth within the range determined by our independent actuary, although the reserve level ultimately determined by us may not be the mid-point of our independent actuary's range. Further, there can be no assurances that our actual losses will be within our actuary's range. Our independent actuary's report expressly states that the report is based on assumptions developed from its own analysis and based on information provided by management and that notwithstanding its analysis, there is a significant risk of material adverse deviation from its range.

Interim – During 2014 our interim approach was very similar to the annual process noted above.

A number of other actuarial assumptions are generally made in the review of reserves for each class of business.

For each class of business, expected ultimate loss ratios for each accident year are estimated based on loss reserve development patterns. The expected loss ratio generally reflects the projected loss ratio from prior accident years, adjusted for the loss trend and the effect of rate changes and other quantifiable factors on the loss ratio.

In practice there are factors that change over time; however, many (such as inflation) are intrinsically reflected in the historical development patterns, and others typically do not materially affect the estimate of the reserve for unpaid losses and LAE. Therefore, no specific adjustments have been incorporated for such contingencies projecting future development of losses and LAE. There are no key assumptions as of December 31, 2014 premised on future emergence inconsistent with historical loss reserve development patterns.

The table below distinguishes total loss reserves between IBNR, as discussed above, and case estimates for specific claims as established by routine claims management.

Reserves for unpaid loss and LAE net of reinsurance recoverable as of December 31, 2014	Case Loss Reserves	Case LAE Reserves	Total Case Reserves	IBNR Reserves (Including LAE)	Reinsurance Recoverable on Unpaid Loss and Loss Expenses	Net Reserves
	(Dollars	in Thousan	ds)			
Homeowners' Commercial General Liability Automobile	\$12,095 4,438 3,404	\$ 2,127 1,208 258	\$ 14,222 5,646 3,662	\$ 41,425 12,669 706	\$ 9,815 - 2,719	\$45,832 18,315 1,649
Total	\$19,937	\$ 3,593	\$ 23,530	\$ 54,800	\$ 12,534	\$65,796

Reserves for unpaid loss and LAE net of	Case	Case	Total	IBNR	Reinsurance	Net
reinsurance recoverable as of December 31,	Loss	LAE	Case	Reserves	Recoverable	Reserves
2013	Reserves	Reserves	Reserves	(Including	on Unpaid	
				LAE)	Loss and	
					Loss	
					Expenses	
	(Dollars	in Thousan	ds)			
Homeowners'	\$10,106	\$ 1,292	\$11,398	\$ 23,749	\$ 25	\$35,122
Commercial General Liability	2,404	1,099	3,503	13,366	-	16,869
Automobile	5,037	3,211	8,248	752	2,717	6,283
Total	\$17,547	\$ 5,602	\$ 23,149	\$ 37,867	\$ 2,742	\$ 58,274
- 46 -						

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Our reported results, financial position and liquidity would be affected by likely changes in key assumptions that determine our net loss reserves. The table below illustrates the change to equity that would occur as a result of a change in loss and LAE reserves, net of reinsurance.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2014			2013		
	Adjusted			Adjusted		
	loss			loss		
Change in loss and	and	Percentage	е	and	Percenta	age
LAE reserves, net of	LAE	change in		LAE	change i	in
reinsurance	reserves,	equity (1)		reserves,	equity (	1)
	net of			net of		
	reinsuran	ice		reinsuran	nce	
	(Dollars	in Thousan	ds)			
-10.0%	59,217	2.2	%	52,447	3.6	%
-7.5%	60,861	1.7	%	53,903	2.7	%
-5.0%	62,506	1.1	%	55,360	1.8	%
-2.5%	64,151	0.6	%	56,817	0.9	%
Base	65,796	-		58,274	-	
2.5%	67,441	-0.6	%	59,731	-0.9	%
5.0%	69,086	-1.1	%	61,188	-1.8	%
7.5%	70,731	-1.7	%	62,645	-2.7	%
10.0%	72,376	-2.2	%	64,101	-3.6	%

## (1) Net of tax

For the year ended December 31, 2014, our actuarial firm determined range of statutory loss and LAE reserves on a net basis range from a low of \$61.7 million to a high of \$72.2 million, with a best estimate of \$66.2 million. The Company's net loss and LAE reserves are carried on a statutory basis at \$68.2 million, and on a GAAP consolidated basis at \$61.0 million which when netted with our \$2.7 million reinsurance recoverable totals \$58.3 million. The Company's statutory point estimate for its reserves as of December 31, 2014 is 3.0% above our actuary's best estimate, which reflects management's current analysis of the status and expected timing of our anticipated claims, our analysis of expected weather patterns in the regions in which we sell policies, our re-focus of our business growth efforts to areas outside of South Florida, and other factors.

We are required to review the contractual terms of all our reinsurance purchases to ensure compliance with FASB issued guidance. The guidance establishes the conditions required for a contract with a reinsurer to be accounted for as reinsurance and prescribes accounting and reporting standards for those contracts. Contracts that do not result in the reasonable possibility that the reinsurer may realize a significant loss from the insurance risk assumed generally do not meet the conditions for reinsurance accounting and must be accounted for as deposits. The guidance also requires us to disclose the nature, purpose and effect of reinsurance transactions, including the premium amounts associated with reinsurance assumed and ceded. It also requires disclosure of concentrations of credit risk associated with reinsurance receivables and prepaid reinsurance premiums.

Please see Footnote 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional discussions regarding critical accounting policies.

## RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

See Note 2(n), "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – Recent Accounting Pronouncements" in the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of recent accounting pronouncements and their effect, if any, on the Company.

- 47 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

As of December 31, 2014 Compared with December 31, 2013

## **Total Investments**

Total investments increased \$110.1 million, or 49.9%, to \$330.8 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$220.7 million as of December 31, 2013. This increase reflected the \$133.8 million increase in gross premiums written compared with 2013 and the \$43.4 million in net proceeds from the Company's August 2014 offering. The excess cash was invested primarily in the bond portfolio.

FASB issued guidance addresses accounting and reporting for (a) investments in equity securities that have readily determinable fair values and (b) all investments in debt securities. We account for our investment securities consistent with FASB issued guidance that requires our securities to be classified into one of three categories: (i) held-to-maturity, (ii) trading securities or (iii) available-for-sale.

Investments classified as held-to-maturity include debt securities wherein the Company's intent and ability are to hold the investment until maturity and are carried at amortized cost without consideration to unrealized gains or losses. Investments classified as trading securities include debt and equity securities bought and held primarily for sale in the near term and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses included in current period operations. Investments classified as available-for-sale include debt and equity securities that are not classified as held-to-maturity or as trading security investments and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of shareholders' equity, namely "Other Comprehensive Income."

The debt and equity securities that are available-for-sale and carried at fair value represent 98% of total investments as of December 31, 2014, compared with 97% as of December 31, 2013.

We did not hold any trading investment securities during 2014.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, our investments consisted primarily of corporate bonds held in various industries, municipal bonds and United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2014, 77% of our debt portfolio was in diverse industries and 23% is in United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2014, approximately 88% of our equity holdings were in equities related to diverse industries and 12% were in mutual funds. As of December 31, 2013, 83% of our debt portfolio was in diverse industries and 17% is in United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2013, approximately 91% of our equity holdings were in equities related to diverse industries and 9% were in mutual funds.

Below is a summary of net unrealized gains at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 by category.

Unrealized Gains
(Losses)
December
31, 31, 2013
(Dollars in
Thousands)

Debt securities:

United States government obligations and authorities \$945 \$ (213)

Edgar Filing: FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Obligations of states and political subdivisions Corporate International	886 1,249 (1)	180 467 (33	)
Equity securities:	3,079	401	
Common stocks	9,339	9,161	
Total debt and equity securities	\$12,418	\$ 9,562	

The net unrealized gain of \$12.4 million is inclusive of \$1.0 million of unrealized losses. The \$1.0 million of unrealized losses is inclusive of \$0.5 million unrealized losses from equity securities and \$0.5 million unrealized losses from debt securities.

- 48 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The \$0.5 million of unrealized losses from equity securities is from common stocks and mutual funds held in diverse industries as of December 31, 2014. The Company evaluated the near-term prospects in relation to the severity and duration of the impairment. Based on this evaluation and the Company's ability and intent to hold these investments for a reasonable period of time sufficient for a forecasted recovery of fair value, the Company does not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2014.

The \$0.5 million of unrealized losses from debt securities is primarily related to Corporate obligations. The Company does not expect to settle at prices less than the amortized cost basis. The Company does not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2014 because we neither currently intend to sell these investments nor consider it likely that we will be required to sell these investments before recovery of the amortized cost basis.

The FASB issued guidance also addresses the determination as to when an investment is considered impaired, whether that impairment is other-than temporary, and the measurement of an impairment loss. The Company's policy for the valuation of temporarily impaired securities is to determine impairment based on the analysis of the following factors.

- ·rating downgrade or other credit event (eg., failure to pay interest when due);
- ·length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than amortized cost;
- financial condition and near term prospects of the issuer, including any specific events which may influence the operations of the issuer such as changes in technology or discontinuance of a business segment;
- ·prospects for the issuer's industry segment;
- intent and ability of the Company to retain the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery in market value;
- ·historical volatility of the fair value of the security.

Pursuant to FASB issued guidance, the Company records the unrealized losses, net of estimated income taxes that are associated with that part of our portfolio classified as available-for-sale through the shareholders' equity account titled "Other Comprehensive Income". Management periodically reviews the individual investments that comprise our portfolio in order to determine whether a decline in fair value below our cost either is other-than temporarily or permanently impaired. Factors used in such consideration include, but are not limited to, the extent and length of time over which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer and our ability and intent to keep the investment for a period sufficient to allow for an anticipated recovery in market value.

In reaching a conclusion that a security is either other-than-temporarily or permanently impaired we consider such factors as the timeliness and completeness of expected dividends, principal and interest payments, ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations such as Standard and Poor's ("S&P") and Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), as well as information released via the general media channels.

During 2014 and 2013, in connection with the process, we have not charged any investment losses to operations. During 2012, in connection with the process, we have charged to operations \$44,000 of investment losses.

As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, all of our securities are in good standing and not impaired as defined by FASB issued guidance.

- 49 -

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following table summarizes, by type, our investments as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	December 31, 2014		December 2013	31,
	Carrying Amount	Percent of Total	Carrying Amount	Percent of Total
	(Dollars in	Thousand	ls)	
Debt securities, at market:				
United States government obligations and authorities	\$62,323	18.84 %	\$27,209	12.33 %
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	91,614	27.70 %	52,064	23.59 %
Corporate	119,024	35.99 %	91,941	41.66 %
International	11,138	3.37 %	3,698	1.68 %
	284,099	85.90 %	5 174,912	79.26 %
Debt securities, at amortized cost:				
United States government obligations and authorities	4,490	1.36 %	6 4,630	2.10 %
Corporate	2,681	0.81 %	2,475	1.12 %
International	246	0.07 %	b 109	0.05 %
	7,417	2.24 %	7,214	3.27 %
Total debt securities	291,516	88.14 %	182,126	82.53 %
Equity securities, at market:	39,247	11.86 %	38,584	17.47 %
Total investments	\$330,763	100.00%	\$220,710	100.00%

Debt securities are carried on the balance sheet at market. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, debt securities had the following quality ratings by S&P and for securities not assigned a rating by S&P, Moody's or Fitch ratings were used.

	December	31,	December	31,
	2014		2013	
		Percent		Percent
	Carrying	of	Carrying	of
	Amount	Total	Amount	Total
	(Dollars in	Thousand	s)	
AAA	\$40,119	13.76 %	\$24,904	13.67 %
AA	125,385	43.01 %	67,374	36.99 %
A	67,818	23.26 %	46,338	25.44 %
BBB	58,172	19.96 %	42,979	23.60 %
Not rated	22	0.01 %	531	0.30 %
	\$291,516	100.00%	\$182,126	100.00%

The following table summarizes, by maturity, the debt securities as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

December 31,		December 31,			
2014		2013			
Carrying	Percent	Carrying	Percent		
Amount		Amount			

Edgar Filing: FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

		of		of
		Total		Total
	(Dollars in	Thousan	ids)	
Matures In:				
One year or less	\$16,796	5.76	% \$5,180	2.84 %
One year to five years	174,260	59.78	% 113,561	62.35 %
Five years to 10 years	100,427	34.45	% 62,511	34.32 %
More than 10 years	33	0.01	% 874	0.49 %
Total debt securities	\$291,516	100.00	% \$182,126	100.00%

As December 31, 2014, the duration of the bond portfolio was approximately 3.7 years.

As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we have classified \$7.4 million and \$7.2 million, respectively, of our bond portfolio as held-to-maturity. We classify bonds as held-to-maturity to support securitization of credit requirements.

- 50 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

During 2014, we did not re-classify any of our bond portfolio between available-for-sale and held-to-maturity. During 2013 we reclassified \$150,000 of our bond portfolio to available-for-sale from held-to-maturity.

Two reinsurers require FNIC to maintain securities with a fair market value of \$4.9 million. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, FNIC maintained fully funded trust agreements that totaled \$4.9 million in favor of the reinsurers. In addition, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, \$1.0 million is held in a fully funded trust account in favor of another reinsurer under a prior program.

#### Cash and Short-Term Investments

Cash and short-term investments, which include cash, certificates of deposits, and money market accounts, decreased \$1.2 million, or 3.1%, to \$40.2 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$41.4 million as of December 31, 2013.

## **Prepaid Reinsurance Premiums**

Prepaid reinsurance premiums increased \$46.9 million, or 618.5%, to \$54.5 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$7.6 million as of December 31, 2013 as the result of the increase in ceded unearned premiums on the Property 30% Quota Share reinsurance agreement effective July 1, 2014, in addition to the amortization of our payment patterns. We believe concentrations of credit risk associated with our prepaid reinsurance premiums are not significant.

Premiums Receivable, Net of Allowance for Credit Losses

Premiums receivable, net of allowance for credit losses, increased \$4.8 million, or 21.5%, to \$27.2 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$22.4 million as of December 31, 2013.

Our homeowners' insurance premiums receivable increased \$3.0 million, or 15.0%, to \$22.4 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$19.4 million as of December 31, 2013, resulting from the increase to gross premiums written during 2014 compared with 2013.

Our commercial general liability insurance premiums receivable decreased \$0.1 million, or 29.8%, to \$0.2 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$0.3 million as of December 31, 2013.

Premiums receivable in connection with our automobile line of business increased \$2.0 million, or 72.0%, to \$4.8 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$2.8 million as of December 31, 2013.

Our allowance for credit losses remained unchanged at \$0.1 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$0.1 million as of December 31, 2013.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 (Dollars in Thousands)

Allowance for credit losses at beginning of year
Additions charged to bad debt expense
Write-downs charged against the allowance
Allowance for credit losses at end of year
\$143 \$69
45 250
(176)
\$148 \$143

## Reinsurance Recoverable, Net

Reinsurance recoverable, net, increased \$9.8 million, or 358.5%, to \$12.5 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$2.7 million as of December 31, 2013. The change is due to the payment patterns by our reinsurers, as influenced by the diminishing catastrophe related claims and to the Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014. All amounts are current and deemed collectable. We believe concentrations of credit risk associated with our reinsurance recoverables, net, are not significant.

- 51 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### **DPAC**

DPAC decreased \$3.1 million, or 18.5%, to \$13.6 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$16.7 million as of December 31, 2013. The change reflects in part the deferral of the actual policy acquisition costs, including commissions, payroll and premium taxes, less commissions earned on reinsurance ceded and policy fees earned associated with our increased unearned premium, which during the twelve months ended December 31, 2014 total approximately \$9.3 million. The \$9.3 million increase was offset by a \$12.4 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014. An analysis of deferred acquisition costs follows.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 (Dollars in Thousands)

Balance, beginning of year \$16,708 \$8,479
Acquisition costs deferred 24,377 29,676
Amortization expense during year (27,475) (21,447)
Balance, end of year \$13,610 \$16,708

#### Deferred Income Taxes, Net

Deferred income taxes, net, converted to a \$1.3 million liability as of December 31, 2014, compared with a \$1.0 million asset as of December 31, 2013.

Deferred income taxes, net, is comprised of approximately \$9.7 million and \$11.0 million of deferred tax assets, net of approximately \$11.0 million and \$10.0 million of deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

The change to deferred income taxes, net is primarily due to the decrease in the reserve for claims settlements and increase in unrealized gain on investment securities as illustrated in the following table.

	Years Ended	
	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Deferred tax assets:		
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$1,239	\$1,157
Unearned premiums	7,812	6,864
Discount on advance premiums	-	243
Allowance for credit losses	63	59
Allowance for impairments	20	21
Depreciation & amortization	13	149
Reserve for claims settlements	12	1,844
NOL Carryforward	-	73
Deferred revenue	36	-
Flow-through income or loss	-	4
Stock option expense per ASC 718	545	550

Total deferred tax assets	9,740	10,964
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Deferred acquisition costs, net	(6,199)	(6,287)
Flow-through income or loss	(9)	-
Dividends Collected vs. Earned	(12)	(6 )
Regulatory assessments	(69)	(67)
Unrealized Gain on investment securities	(4,792)	(3,598)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(11,081)	(9,958)
Net deferred tax (liability) asset	\$(1,341)	\$1,006

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Income Taxes Receivable

Income taxes receivable totaled \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with income taxes payable of \$2.4 million as of December 31, 2013. The change is due to estimated tax payments made in excess of the related accrued liability.

## Property, Plant and Equipment, net

Property, plant and equipment, net increased \$0.8 million, or 88.3%, to \$1.7 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$0.9 million as of December 31, 2013. The change is due primarily to investments in information technology.

#### Other Assets

Other assets increased \$4.0 million, or 126.4%, to \$7.2 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$3.2 million as of December 31, 2013. Major components of other assets are shown in the following table; the accrued interest income receivable is primarily investment related.

Decemb	er December
31,	
,	31, 2013
2014	
(Dollars	in
Thousan	ıds)

Accrued interest income receivable	\$2,601	\$ 1,684
Commission receivable	2,077	-
Deposits	281	327
Prepaid expenses	1,496	812
Other	746	371
Total	\$7,231	\$ 3,194

## Contingent Quota-Share Profit Sharing

Contingent quota-share profit sharing totaled \$14.0 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with nothing as of December 31, 2013. The \$14.0 million is our current estimated profit-sharing benefit associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014. The provisions of this program allow for profit-sharing up to approximately \$32.0 million at the end of the two-year contract term. The ultimate benefit is based upon the occurrence of future catastrophic events and predefined non-catastrophic loss ratios.

## Unpaid Losses and LAE

Unpaid losses and LAE increased \$17.3 million, or 28.4%, to \$78.3 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$61.0 million as of December 31, 2013, in conjunction with the increase to net premiums earned during 2014 compared with 2013. The \$17.3 million increase was net of a \$2.1 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014. The composition of unpaid losses and LAE by product line is as follows.

	December 31, 2014			Decembe	er 31, 2013	,		
	Case	Bulk	Total	Case	Bulk	Total		
	(Dollars in Thousands)			(Dollars in Thousands)				
Homeowners'	\$14,223	\$35,192	\$49,415	\$11,399	\$19,623	\$31,022		
Commercial General Liability	5,646	12,505	18,151	3,503	13,231	16,734		
Automobile	3,672	7,092	10,764	8,259	5,001	13,260		
Total	\$23,541	\$54,789	\$78,330	\$23,161	\$37,855	\$61,016		

Please see "Liability for Unpaid Losses and LAE" under "Item 1. Business" for a discussion of the factors that affect unpaid losses and LAE.

- 53 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### **Unearned Premium**

Unearned premiums increased \$64.1 million, or 49.9%, to \$192.4 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$128.3 million as of December 31, 2013. The change was due to a \$61.3 million increase in unearned homeowners' insurance premiums, a \$0.8 million increase in unearned flood insurance premiums, a \$1.2 million increase in unearned commercial general liability premiums and a \$0.8 million increase in unearned automobile insurance premiums. Generally, as is in this case, an increase in unearned premium directly relates to an increase in written premium on a rolling twelve-month basis. The \$64.1 million total increase and the \$61.3 million homeowners' increase were net of a \$38.5 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014.

#### Premium Deposits and Customer Credit Balances

Premium deposits and customer credit balances increased \$3.6 million, or 92.6%, to \$7.4 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$3.8 million as of December 31, 2013. Premium deposits are monies received on policies not yet in-force, the change of which is due to the increase in gross written premiums during this same period.

#### **Income Taxes Payable**

Income taxes payable converted to income taxes receivable of \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with income taxes payable of \$2.4 million as of December 31, 2013. The change is due to estimated tax payments made in excess of the related accrued liability.

#### Deferred Income Taxes, Net

Deferred income taxes, net, converted to a \$1.3 million liability as of December 31, 2014, compared with a \$1.0 million asset as of December 31, 2013.

Deferred income taxes, net, is comprised of approximately \$9.7 million and \$11.0 million of deferred tax assets, net of approximately \$11.0 million and \$10.0 million of deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

The change to deferred income taxes, net is primarily due to the decrease in the reserve for claims settlements and increase in unrealized gain on investment securities as illustrated in the following table.

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Deferred tax assets:		
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$1,239	\$1,157
Unearned premiums	7,812	6,864
Discount on advance premiums	-	243
Allowance for credit losses	63	59
Allowance for impairments	20	21
Depreciation & amortization	13	149
Reserve for claims settlements	12	1,844
NOL Carryforward	-	73

Edgar Filing: FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Deferred revenue	36		-	
Flow-through income or loss	-		4	
Stock option expense per ASC 718	545		550	
Total deferred tax assets	9,740		10,964	
Deferred tax liabilities:				
Deferred acquisition costs, net	(6,199	)	(6,287	)
Flow-through income or loss	(9	)	-	
Dividends Collected vs. Earned	(12	)	(6	)
Regulatory assessments	(69	)	(67	)
Unrealized Gain on investment securities	(4,792	)	(3,598	)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(11,081	)	(9,958	)
Net deferred tax (liability) asset	\$(1,341	) \$	1,006	

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

## **Claims Payments Outstanding**

Claims payments outstanding increased \$4.0 million, or 63.7%, to \$10.2 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$6.2 million as of December 31, 2013. The claims payments outstanding relate primarily to losses and LAE disbursements paid but not presented for payment by the policyholder or vendor. The change relates to the timing of presentation of claims checks to the issuing bank. Generally, the increase in claims payments outstanding directly relates to the increase in claims payments which directly relates to the increase in written premium.

#### Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses increased \$4.5 million, or 69.5%, to \$11.0 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$6.5 million as of December 31, 2013. The \$4.5 million change includes increases of \$1.8 million for premium taxes, \$0.9 million for commissions, \$0.9 million for vendor accruals, \$0.4 million for the remittance of recouped assessments, \$0.3 million for the Homeowners Louisiana assessment and \$0.2 million for dividends.

## Deferred Quota-Share Profit Sharing

Deferred quota-share profit sharing totaled \$10.5 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with nothing as of December 31, 2013, and relates to the quota-share program. The deferred quota-share profit sharing was originally recorded at \$14.0 million at the program's July 1, 2014 inception and will continue to amortize over the life of the program.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Year Ended December 31, 2014 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2013

Effective January 26, 2011, FNIC merged with and into American Vehicle, and the resulting entity changed its name to "Federated National Insurance Company".

#### Gross Premiums Written

Gross premiums written increased \$133.8 million, or 55.0%, to \$377.2 million for 2014, compared with \$243.4 million for 2013. The following table denotes gross premiums written by major product line. The increase in gross premiums written during 2014 is primarily due to the increase in the sale of homeowners' policies. During 2014, our improved underwriting, risk management and product distribution enabled us to write more policies than in prior years.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2014	2013				
	(Dollars in					
	Thousands)					
	Amount	PercentageAmount	Percentage			
Homeowners'	\$344,939	91.46 % \$218,349	89.72 %			
Commercial General Liability	12,432	3.30 % 10,362	4.26 %			
•	*		,,,			
Federal Flood	7,408	1.96 % 6,213	2.55 %			
Automobile	12,377	3.28 % 8,449	3.47 %			
Gross written premiums	\$377,156	100.00% \$243,373	100.00 %			

The increase in the sale of homeowners' policies by \$126.6 million, or 58.0%, to \$344.9 million in 2014, compared with \$218.3 million in 2013, is gross of reinsurance costs and net of Florida's mandated homeowners' wind mitigation discounts. We offer premium discounts for wind mitigation efforts by policyholders, as required by Florida law. As of December 31, 2014, 76.4% of our in-force homeowners' policyholders were receiving wind mitigation credits totaling approximately \$336.7 million (a 50.1% reduction of in-force premium), while 80.3% of our in-force homeowners' policyholders were receiving wind mitigation credits totaling approximately \$216.8 million, (a 50.1% reduction of in-force premium), as of December 31, 2013.

During 2014, \$39.6 million or 11.0% of the \$344.9 million of homeowners' premiums we underwrote were produced under an agency agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc. ("ISA"), an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, that grants Allstate agents the authority to offer certain FNU products. The \$39.6 million of homeowners' premiums produced under this agreement with ISA represents 31.0% of the total increase in the sale of homeowners' policies during 2014, compared with 2013. This network of agents began writing for FNIC in March 2013.

- 55 -

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

During 2014 and 2013, the change to the cumulative wind mitigation credits afforded our policyholders totaled \$119.9 million and \$155.7 million, respectively.

These premium discounts have had a significant effect on both written and earned premium. Wind mitigation credits are 50.1% of the pre-credit premium, or \$336.7 million, as of December 31, 2014, as compared with 50.1% of the pre-credit premium, or \$216.8 million, as of December 31, 2013.

Our in-force homeowners' policies increased by approximately 66,200, or approximately 56.8%, to approximately 182,600 as of December 31, 2014, as compared with approximately 116,400 as of December 31, 2013.

Premium rates charged to our homeowner insurance policyholders are continually evaluated to assure that they meet the expectation that they are actuarially sound and produce a reasonable level of profit (neither excessive nor inadequate). Premium rates are regulated and approved by the Florida OIR. In 2014 our voluntary program rate study resulted in a rate decrease of 3% on our voluntary property book of homeowners' business. In 2013 our voluntary program rate indications did not indicate the need for adjustment. In 2012 we were approved for a 4.8% and 0.9% rate increase on our voluntary property book of homeowners' business.

Similarly, for the policies we assumed from Citizens Property Insurance Corporation ("Citizens") in 2009, we received approval for a 14.8% increase in 2013 and a 14.1% rate increase in 2012. There was no rate change in 2014. Our voluntary program was 99.0%, 97.7%, and 90.0% of the total homeowner program, for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Our earnings can also be impacted by our ratings, such as the rating of FNIC by Demotech, Inc. ("Demotech"). FNIC's rating as of December 31, 2014 was "A" ("Exceptional"). For more information regarding our rating and the impact of a change or withdrawal of our rating, please see "Business-Regulation-Industry Rating Services."

The Company's sale of commercial general liability policies increased by \$2.0 million to \$12.4 million for 2014, compared with \$10.4 million for 2013. The primary factor for this increase has been renewal retention combined with new business growth.

The following table sets forth the amounts and percentages of our gross premiums written in connection with our commercial general liability program by state.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2014			2013		
	Amount	Percentag	ge	Amount	Percentag	ge .
	(Dollars in Thousands)					
<u>State</u>						
Florida	\$11,401	91.71	%	\$9,572	92.37	%
Louisiana	98	0.79	%	150	1.45	%
Texas	756	6.08	%	547	5.28	%
Other	177	1.42	%	93	0.90	%
Total	\$12,432	100.00	%	\$10,362	100.00	%

We are required to report write-your-own flood premiums on a direct and 100% ceded basis.

The Company's sale of auto insurance policies increased by \$4.0 million to \$12.4 million for 2014, compared with \$8.4 million for 2013. The primary factor for this increase was due to the new Texas private passenger automobile business for which 2013 was the first full year of operations.

#### Gross Premiums Ceded

Gross premiums ceded increased to \$202.0 million for 2014, compared with \$82.7 million for 2013. Gross premiums ceded relating to our homeowners', commercial general liability, write-your-own flood and automobile programs totaled \$184.8 million, \$0.5 million, \$7.4 million and \$9.3 million for 2014. Gross premiums ceded relating to our homeowners' includes \$73.0 million associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014 and was also impacted by an additional 165.0% of reinsurance coverage purchased for the 2014-2015 season as compared with the 2013-2014 season.

- 56 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Gross premiums ceded relating to our homeowners', commercial general liability, write-your-own flood and automobile programs totaled \$69.7 million, \$0.5 million, \$6.2 million and \$6.3 million for 2013.

## Increase in Prepaid Reinsurance Premiums

The increase in prepaid reinsurance premiums was \$59.8 million in 2014, compared with \$13.1 million in 2013. The increased benefit to written premium is associated with the timing of our reinsurance payments measured against the term of the underlying reinsurance policies.

#### Increase in Unearned Premiums

The increase in unearned premiums was \$64.1 million for 2014, compared with \$69.3 million in 2013. The \$64.1 million charge to written premium was due to a \$61.3 million increase in unearned homeowners' insurance premiums, a \$0.8 million increase in unearned flood premiums, a \$1.2 million increase in unearned commercial general liability premiums and a \$0.8 million increase in unearned automobile insurance premiums during 2014. These changes are a result of differences in written premium volume during this period as compared with the same period last year. See "Gross Premiums Written" above. The \$64.1 million total increase and the \$61.3 million homeowners' increase were net of a \$38.5 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014.

#### Net Premiums Earned

Net premiums earned increased \$66.5 million, or 63.7%, to \$170.9 million for 2014, compared with \$104.4 million for 2013. The following table denotes net premiums earned by product line.

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013			
	Amount	Percentage Amount	Percentage		
		(Dollars in			
		Thousands)			
Homeowners'	\$157,225	92.00 % \$92,793	88.89 %		
Commercial General Liability	10,769	6.30 % 9,432	9.04 %		
Automobile	2,911	1.70 % 2,156	2.07 %		
Net premiums earned	\$170,905	100.00% \$104,381	100.00 %		

The \$64.4 million increase in homeowners' net premiums earned is due to a \$126.6 million increase in gross written premium as discussed, a \$115.0 million increase in gross premiums ceded and a \$52.9 million decrease in the net change to prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned premium.

The \$66.5 million total increase and the \$64.4 million homeowners' increase were net of a \$34.6 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014.

The \$1.3 million increase in commercial general liability net premiums earned is a result of a \$2.1 million increase in gross written premium, a less than \$0.1 million increase in gross premiums ceded and a \$0.7 million increase in the net change to unearned premium.

The \$0.8 million increase in automobile net premiums earned is a result of a \$3.9 million increase in gross written premium as discussed, a \$3.0 million increase in gross premiums ceded and a \$0.2 million increase in the net change to prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned premium.

## **Commission Income**

Commission income increased \$1.9 million, or 70.7%, to \$4.5 million for 2014, compared with \$2.6 million for 2013. The primary sources of our commission income are our managing general agent services, write-your-own flood premiums and our independent insurance agency, Insure-Link, Inc. ("Insure-Link").

- 57 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Finance Revenue

Finance revenue increased \$0.6 million, or 69.2%, to \$1.5 million 2014, compared with \$0.9 million for 2013. The primary source of finance revenue is service fees and interest income from our direct billing program, in which we allow our insureds to pay premiums over a stated number of months.

## Direct Written Policy Fees

Direct written policy fees increased \$2.5 million, or 40.2%, to \$8.7 million for 2014, compared with \$6.2 million for 2013. The change is attributed to the increase in gross premiums written during this same period.

#### Net Investment Income

Net investment income increased \$2.1 million, or 61.6%, to \$5.4 million for 2014, compared with \$3.3 million for 2013.

Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses, excluding equities and including cash, was 2.7% and 3.0%, respectively, for 2014. Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses, excluding equities and including cash, was 2.1% and 2.3%, respectively, for 2013.

Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses measured against debt securities, excluding equities and cash, was 2.8% and 3.2%, respectively, for 2014. Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses measured against debt securities, excluding equities and cash, was 2.4% and 2.7%, respectively, for 2013. The 2013 investment yields have been recalculated in conformity with the 2014 computations, which are on a taxable equivalent basis and more adequately distinguish between taxable and non-taxable income. Our lower investment yield in 2013 primarily resulted from selling higher yielding and longer duration bonds and purchasing shorter duration and lower yielding bonds to protect our bond portfolio against principal erosion, and our average cash holdings were much higher in 2013.

See also "Analysis of Financial Condition As of December 31, 2014 Compared with December 31, 2013 – Investments" for a further discussion on our investment portfolio.

## Net Realized Investment Gains

Net realized investment gains were \$4.4 million for 2014, compared with \$2.9 million for 2013. Specifically, net realized gains for equity securities were \$3.8 million for 2014, compared with of \$2.9 million for 2013. For debt securities, net realized gains were \$0.7 million for 2014, compared with \$0.7 million for 2013. Our managers are authorized to sell securities at their discretion. During 2014, our equity managers took advantage of prevailing market opportunities and sold equities to lock in gains.

FASB has issued guidance regarding when an investment is considered impaired, whether that impairment is other-than temporary, and the measurement of an impairment loss. Management periodically reviews the individual investments that comprise our portfolio in order to determine whether a decline in fair value below our cost either is other-than temporarily or permanently impaired. During 2014 and 2013, pursuant to guidelines prescribed in FASB issued guidance, we have not charged to operations any investment losses. During 2012, in connection with the process, we have charged to operations \$44,000 of investment losses. In reaching a conclusion that a security is either other-than-temporarily or permanently impaired we consider such factors as the timeliness and completeness of

expected dividends, principal and interest payments, ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations such as S&P and Moody's, as well as information released via the general media channels.

- 58 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Years Ended

The table below depicts the net realized investment gains by investment category during 2014 and 2013.

	December 31,				
	2014	2013			
	(Dollars i	in			
	Thousand	ds)			
Realized gains:					
Debt securities	\$725	\$1,690			
Equity securities	4,489	2,858			
Total realized gains	5,214	4,548			
Realized losses:					
Debt securities	(147)	(1,001)			
Equity securities	(641)	(666)			
Total realized losses	(788)	(1,667)			

Net realized gains on investments \$4,426 \$2,881

#### Other Income

Other income increased \$1.1 million, or 75.1%, to \$2.5 million for 2014, compared with \$1.4 million for 2013. The increase is primarily due to the commission sharing agreement with our reinsurance intermediary.

#### Quota-Share Profit Sharing, Net

Quota-share profit sharing, net totaled \$2.8 million for 2014, compared with nothing for 2013. The deferred quota-share profit sharing was originally estimated and recorded at \$14.0 million at the program's July 1, 2014 inception, based upon the likely occurrence of future catastrophic events and predefined non-catastrophic loss ratios. This estimate, subject to future adjustments, will continue to be amortized over the remaining life of the quota-share program.

The \$2.8 million, net total includes a \$3.5 million benefit associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014 and a \$0.7 charge associated with our profit sharing agreement with SageSure.

Favorable adjustments to the deferred quota-share profit sharing total will increase the amount we recognize over the remaining life of the program. Unfavorable adjustments to the deferred quota-share profit sharing total will decrease the amount we recognize over the remaining life of the program and could result in a current period charge to operations for some or all of the previously recognized profit sharing.

#### Losses and LAE

Losses and LAE, our most significant expense, represent actual payments made and changes in estimated future payments to be made to or on behalf of our policyholders, including expenses required to settle claims and losses. We revise our estimates based on the results of analysis of estimated future payments to be made. This process assumes that experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for predicting future events.

Losses and LAE increased by \$24.6 million, or 43.7%, to \$81.0 million for 2014, compared with \$56.4 million for 2013. The overall change includes a \$17.3 million increase in our homeowners' program, a \$7.1 million increase in our commercial general liability program and a \$0.2 million increase in connection with our automobile program.

The \$24.6 million total increase and the \$17.3 million homeowners' increase were net of a \$7.7 million reduction associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014.

The increase to losses and LAE for 2014, compared with 2013, also reflects the additional reserves we added in response to the substantial increase in the number of policies we wrote during 2014. The increase to losses and LAE was more than offset by the increase to net premiums earned during this same period.

- 59 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The composition of unpaid losses and LAE by product line is as follows.

	December 31, 2014			Decembe	er 31, 2013		
	Case Bulk Total C		Case	Bulk	Total		
	(Dollars in Thousands)			(Dollars i	ars in Thousands)		
Homeowners'	\$14,223	\$35,192	\$49,415	\$11,399	\$19,623	\$31,022	
Commercial General Liability	5,646	12,505	18,151	3,503	13,231	16,734	
Automobile	3,672	7,092	10,764	8,259	5,001	13,260	
Total	\$23,541	\$54,789	\$78,330	\$23,161	\$37,855	\$61,016	

Please see "Liability for Unpaid Losses and LAE" under "Item 1 Business" for a further discussion of the factors that affect unpaid losses and LAE.

Management revises its estimates based on the results of its analysis. This process assumes that experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for estimating the ultimate settlement of all claims. There is no precise method for subsequently evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of the reserves, because the eventual redundancy or deficiency is affected by multiple factors. Because of our process, reserves were increased by approximately \$17.3 million during 2014. This overall change includes a \$18.4 million increase in reserves for our homeowners' program, a \$2.5 million decrease in reserves for our automobile program and a \$1.4 million increase in reserves for our commercial general liability program.

Our loss ratio is computed as losses and LAE divided by net premiums earned. A lower loss ratio generally results in higher operating income. Our loss ratio for 2014 was 47.4% compared with 54.0% for the same period in 2013. The decrease to our loss ratio is due to the \$24.6 million increase in losses and LAE measured against the \$66.5 million increase in net premium earned during 2014 as compared with the same period in 2013.

The table below reflects the loss ratios by product line.

	Years Ended				
	December 31,				
	2014		2013		
Homeowners'	44.24	%	56.27	%	
Commercial General Liability	70.75	%	5.50	%	
Automobile	132.52	%	170.79	9%	
All lines	47.42	%	54.04	%	

Operating and Underwriting Expenses

Operating and underwriting expenses increased \$5.4 million, or 37.5%, to \$19.9 million for 2014, compared with \$14.5 million for 2013. The change is primarily due to a \$1.6 million increase in premium tax, a \$0.5 million increase in surveys and underwriting reports, a \$0.4 million increase in actuarial fees, a \$0.4 million increase in credit card fees and a \$2.5 million increase in other general expenses.

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and wages increased \$4.8 million, or 46.9%, to \$15.0 million for 2014, compared with \$10.2 million for 2013 and is primarily due to the increased number of employees which totaled 219 as of December 31, 2014, compared with 153 as of December 31, 2013. The charge to operations for stock-based compensation, in accordance with FASB guidance, was approximately \$1.3 million during 2014, compared with approximately \$0.4 million for 2013, for which the increased charge is primarily attributed to the higher fair market value per share at grant during 2014 compared with 2013.

#### Amortization of DPAC

Amortization of DPAC increased \$6.1 million, or 28.1%, to \$27.5 million for 2014, compared with \$21.4 million for 2013, which corresponds to the increase in net premiums earned during this same period. Amortization of DPAC consists of the actual policy acquisition costs, including commissions, payroll and premium taxes, less commissions earned on reinsurance ceded and policy fees earned.

- 60 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The change to amortization of DPAC typically corresponds to the change in net premiums earned during the same period, and consists of the actual policy acquisition costs, including commissions, payroll and premium taxes, less commissions earned on reinsurance ceded and policy fees earned, which for 2014 totaled approximately \$18.4 million. The \$18.4 million was offset by a \$12.3 million benefit associated with our Property 30% Quota Share agreement effective July 1, 2014.

#### Provision for Income Tax Expense

The provision for income tax expense was \$20.1 million for 2014, compared with \$6.5 million for 2013. The effective rate for income taxes was 35.1% for 2014, compared with 33.8% for 2013.

#### Net Income

Net income increased \$24.5 million, or 192.3%, to \$37.2 million for 2014, compared with \$12.7 million for 2013.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Year Ended December 31, 2013 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2012

Effective January 26, 2011, FNIC merged with and into American Vehicle, and the resulting entity changed its name to "Federated National Insurance Company".

#### Gross Premiums Written

Gross premiums written increased \$123.9 million, or 103.7%, to \$243.4 million for 2013, compared with \$119.5 million for 2012. The following table denotes gross premiums written by major product line. The increase in gross premiums written during 2013 is primarily due to the increase in the sale of homeowners' policies. During 2013, our improved underwriting, risk management and product distribution enabled us to write more policies than in prior years.

	Years Ended December 31,							
	2013							
	(Dollars in							
	Thousands)							
	Amount	Percentage Amount	Percentage					
Homeowners'	\$218,349	89.72 % \$101,832	85.24 %					
Commercial General Liability	10,362	4.26 % 9,338	7.82 %					
Federal Flood	6,213	2.55 % 5,293	4.43 %					
Automobile	8,449	3.47 % 2,996	2.51 %					
Gross written premiums	\$243,373	100.00% \$119,459	100.00 %					

The increase in the sale of homeowners' policies by \$116.5 million, or 114.4%, to \$218.3 million in 2013, compared with \$101.8 million in 2012, is gross of reinsurance costs and net of Florida's mandated homeowners' wind mitigation discounts. We offer premium discounts for wind mitigation efforts by policyholders, as required by Florida law. As of December 31, 2013, 80.3% of our in-force homeowners' policyholders were receiving wind mitigation credits totaling approximately \$216.8 million (a 50.1% reduction of in-force premium), while 72.7% of our in-force homeowners' policyholders were receiving wind mitigation credits totaling approximately \$61.1 million, (a 37.4% reduction of

in-force premium), as of December 31, 2012.

During 2013, \$29.7 million or 13.6% of the \$218.3 million of homeowners' premiums we underwrote were produced under an agency agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc. ("ISA"), an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, that grants Allstate agents the authority to offer certain FNU products. The \$29.7 million of homeowners' premiums produced under this agreement with ISA represents 25.5% of the total increase in the sale of homeowners' policies during 2013, compared with 2012. This network of agents began writing for FNIC in March 2013.

During 2013 and 2012, the change to the cumulative wind mitigation credits afforded our policyholders totaled \$155.7 million and \$29.6 million, respectively.

- 61 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

These premium discounts have had a significant effect on both written and earned premium. Wind mitigation credits are 50.1% of the pre-credit premium, or \$216.8 million, as of December 31, 2013, as compared with 37.4% of the pre-credit premium, or \$61.1 million, as of December 31, 2012.

Our in-force homeowners' policies increased by approximately 55,300, or approximately 91%, to approximately 116,400 as of December 31, 2013, as compared with approximately 61,100 as of December 31, 2012.

Premium rates charged to our homeowner insurance policyholders are continually evaluated to assure that they meet the expectation that they are actuarially sound and produce a reasonable level of profit (neither excessive nor inadequate). Premium rates are regulated and approved by the Florida OIR. In 2013 our voluntary program rate indications did not indicate the need for adjustment. In 2012 we were approved for a 4.8% and 0.9% rate increase on our voluntary property book of homeowners' business. In 2011 our voluntary rate increase of 20% was approved.

Similarly, for the policies we assumed from Citizens in 2009, we received approval for a 14.8% increase in 2013 and a 14.1% rate increase in 2012. In 2011 we received approval for a 13.9% increase. Our voluntary program was 97.7%, 90.0%, and 79.2% of the total homeowner program, for the years ending December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011, respectively.

Our earnings can also be impacted by our ratings, such as the rating of FNIC by Demotech. FNIC's rating as of December 31, 2013 was "A" ("Exceptional"). For more information regarding our rating and the impact of a change or withdrawal of our rating, please see "Business-Regulation-Industry Rating Services."

The Company's sale of commercial general liability policies increased by \$1.1 million to \$10.4 million for 2013, compared with \$9.3 million for 2012. The primary factor for this increase has been renewal retention combined with new business growth.

The following table sets forth the amounts and percentages of our gross premiums written in connection with our commercial general liability program by state.

	Years End	ded Decem	ber	31,			
	2013	2012					
	Amount	Percentage	•	Amount Percentage			
	(Dollars i	n Thousand	ls)				
<b>State</b>							
Florida	\$9,572	92.37	%	\$8,639	92.52	%	
Louisiana	150	1.45	%	217	2.32	%	
Texas	547	5.28	%	426	4.56	%	
Other	93	0.90	%	56	0.60	%	
Total	\$10,362	100.00	%	\$9,338	100.00	%	

We are required to report write-your-own flood premiums on a direct and 100% ceded basis.

The Company's sale of auto insurance policies increased by \$5.4 million to \$8.4 million for 2013, compared with \$3.0 million for 2012. The primary factor for this increase has been renewal retention combined with new Texas business growth for which 2013 was the first full year of operations.

Gross Premiums Ceded

Gross premiums ceded increased to \$82.7 million for 2013, compared with \$51.1 million for 2012. Gross premiums ceded relating to our homeowners', commercial general liability, write-your-own flood and automobile programs totaled \$69.7 million, \$0.5 million, \$6.2 million and \$6.3 million for 2013. Gross premiums ceded relating to our homeowners', commercial general liability, write-your-own flood and automobile programs totaled \$43.3 million, \$0.5 million, \$5.3 million and \$2.0 million for 2012.

The increased homeowners' gross premiums ceded is due to an additional 75.7% of reinsurance coverage purchased for the 2013-2014 season as compared with the 2012 - 2013 season.

- 62 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

## Increase in Prepaid Reinsurance Premiums

The increase in prepaid reinsurance premiums was \$13.1 million in 2013, compared with \$2.1 million in 2012. The benefit to written premium is associated with the timing of our reinsurance payments measured against the term of the underlying reinsurance policies.

#### Increase in Unearned Premiums

The increase in unearned premiums was \$69.3 million for 2013, compared with \$11.1 million in 2012. The 2013 charge to written premium was due to a \$68.0 million increase in unearned homeowners' insurance premiums, a \$0.4 million increase in unearned flood premiums, a \$0.5 million increase in unearned commercial general liability premiums and a \$0.4 million increase in unearned automobile insurance premiums during 2013. These changes are a result of differences in written premium volume during this period as compared with the same period last year. See "Gross Premiums Written" above.

#### Net Premiums Earned

Net premiums earned increased \$45.0 million, or 75.8%, to \$104.4 million for 2013, compared with \$59.4 million for 2012. The following table denotes net premiums earned by product line.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2013	2012				
	Amount	Percentage Amount	Percentage			
		(Dollars in				
		Thousands)				
Homeowners'	\$92,793	88.89 % \$49,209	82.90	%		
Commercial General Liability	9,432	9.04 % 9,196	15.49	%		
Automobile	2,156	2.07 % 954	1.61	%		
Net premiums earned	\$104,381	100.00% \$59,359	100.00	%		

The \$43.6 million increase in homeowners' net premiums earned is due to a \$116.5 million increase in gross written premium as discussed, a \$26.4 million increase in gross premiums ceded and a \$46.5 million increase in the net change to prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned premium.

The \$0.2 million increase in commercial general liability net premiums earned is a result of a \$1.0 million increase in gross written premium, a less than \$0.1 million decrease in gross premiums ceded and a \$0.8 million increase in the net change to unearned premium.

The \$1.2 million increase in automobile net premiums earned is a result of a \$5.5 million increase in gross written premium as discussed, a \$4.3 million increase in gross premiums ceded and a less than \$0.1 million decrease in the net change to prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned premium.

#### **Commission Income**

Commission income increased \$1.2 million, or 92.2%, to \$2.6 million for 2013, compared with \$1.4 million for 2012. The primary sources of our commission income are our managing general agent services, write-your-own flood

premiums and our independent insurance agency, Insure-Link.

Direct Written Policy Fees

Direct written policy fees increased \$4.2 million, or 208.8%, to \$6.2 million for 2013, compared with \$2.0 million for 2012. The change is attributed to the increase in gross premiums written during this same period.

- 63 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Net Investment Income

Net investment income decreased \$0.5 million, or 12.7%, to \$3.3 million for 2013, compared with \$3.8 million for 2012.

Our investment yield, net and of and including investment expenses, excluding equities and including cash, was 2.1% and 2.3%, respectively, for 2013. Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses, excluding equities and including cash, was 2.5% and 2.8%, respectively, for 2012.

Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses measured against debt securities, excluding equities and cash, was 2.4% and 2.7%, respectively, for 2013. Our investment yield, net of and including investment expenses measured against debt securities, excluding equities and cash, was 2.6% and 2.9%, respectively, for 2012.

The 2013 investment yields have been recalculated in conformity with the 2014 computations which are on a taxable equivalent basis and more adequately distinguish between taxable and non-taxable income. The 2012 investment yields have not been recalculated in conformity with the 2014 computations because the distinction between taxable and non-taxable income was immaterial.

The primary reason for our lower investment yield in 2013 pertained to selling higher yielding and longer duration bonds and purchasing shorter duration and lower yielding bonds to protect our bond portfolio against principal erosion.

See also "Analysis of Financial Condition As of December 31, 2013 Compared with December 31, 2012 – Investments" for a further discussion on our investment portfolio.

#### Net Realized Investment Gains

Net realized investment gains were \$2.9 million for 2013, compared with \$1.1 million for 2012. Specifically, net realized gains for equity securities were \$2.2 million for 2013, compared with net realized losses of \$0.3 million for 2012. For debt securities, net realized gains were \$0.7 million for 2013, compared with \$1.4 million for 2012. Our managers are authorized to sell securities at their discretion. During 2013, our equity managers took advantage of prevailing market opportunities and sold equities to lock in gains.

FASB has issued guidance regarding when an investment is considered impaired, whether that impairment is other-than temporary, and the measurement of an impairment loss. Management periodically reviews the individual investments that comprise our portfolio in order to determine whether a decline in fair value below our cost either is other-than temporarily or permanently impaired. During 2013, pursuant to guidelines prescribed in FASB issued guidance, we have not charged to operations any investment losses. During 2012, pursuant to guidelines prescribed in FASB issued guidance, we charged to operations, realized investment losses of \$44,000. In reaching a conclusion that a security is either other-than-temporarily or permanently impaired we consider such factors as the timeliness and completeness of expected dividends, principal and interest payments, ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations such as S&P and Moody's, as well as information released via the general media channels.

The table below depicts the net realized investment gains by investment category during 2013 and 2012.

Years Ended December 31.

2013	2012
(Dollars	in
Thousar	nds)

Realized gains:

Debt securities	\$1,690	\$1,783
Equity securities	2,858	1,403
Total realized gains	4,548	3,186

Realized losses:

Debt securities	(1,001)	(391)
Equity securities	(666)	(1,723)
Total realized losses	(1,667)	(2,114)
Net realized gains on investments	\$2,881	\$1.072

- 64 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Other Income

Other income increased \$0.9 million, or 177.3%, to \$1.4 million for 2013, compared with \$0.5 million for 2012. The increase is primarily due to the recoupment of assessments previously expensed in connection with the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association ("FIGA").

#### Losses and LAE

Losses and LAE, our most significant expense, represent actual payments made and changes in estimated future payments to be made to or on behalf of our policyholders, including expenses required to settle claims and losses. We revise our estimates based on the results of analysis of estimated future payments to be made. This process assumes that experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for predicting future events.

Losses and LAE increased by \$26.2 million, or 86.7%, to \$56.4 million for 2013, compared with \$30.2 million for 2012. The overall change includes a \$26.7 million increase in our homeowners' program, a \$2.5 million decrease in our commercial general liability program and a \$2.0 million increase in connection with our automobile program.

The increase to losses and LAE for 2013, compared with 2012, reflects the additional reserves we added in response to the substantial increase in the number of policies we wrote during 2013. The increase to losses and LAE was more than offset by the increase to net premiums earned during this same period.

The composition of unpaid losses and LAE by product line is as follows.

	December 31, 2013			Decembe	ember 31, 2012		
	Case Bulk Total C		Case	Bulk	Total		
	(Dollars in Thousands)			(Dollars in Thousands)			
Homeowners'	\$11,399	\$19,623	\$31,022	\$8,276	\$6,637	\$14,913	
Commercial General Liability	3,503	13,231	16,734	2,956	22,310	25,266	
Automobile	8,259	5,001	13,260	3,643	6,086	9,729	
Total	\$23,161	\$37,855	\$61,016	\$14,875	\$35,033	\$49,908	

Please see "Liability for Unpaid Losses and LAE" under "Item 1 Business" for a further discussion of the factors that affect unpaid losses and LAE.

Management revises its estimates based on the results of its analysis. This process assumes that experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for estimating the ultimate settlement of all claims. There is no precise method for subsequently evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of the reserves, because the eventual redundancy or deficiency is affected by multiple factors. Because of our process, reserves were increased by approximately \$11.1 million during 2013. This overall change includes a \$16.1 million increase in reserves for our homeowners' program, a \$3.5 million increase in reserves for our automobile program and an \$8.5 million decrease in reserves for our commercial general liability program.

Our loss ratio is computed as losses and LAE divided by net premiums earned. A lower loss ratio generally results in higher operating income. Our loss ratio for 2013 was 54.0% compared with 50.9% for the same period in 2012. The increase to our loss ratio is due to the \$26.2 million increase in losses and LAE measured against the \$45.0 million

increase in net premium earned during 2013 as compared with the same period in 2012.

The table below reflects the loss ratios by product line.

- 65 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Operating and Underwriting Expenses

Operating and underwriting expenses increased \$4.5 million, or 44.8%, to \$14.5 million for 2013, compared with \$10.0 million for 2012. The change is primarily due to a \$2.5 million increase in premium tax expense, a \$0.5 million increase in postage, a \$0.9 million increase in surveys and underwriting reports and a \$0.6 million increase in other general expenses.

#### Salaries and Wages

Salaries and wages increased \$1.8 million, or 20.7%, to \$10.2 million for 2013, compared with \$8.4 million for 2012 and is primarily due to an increased number of employees. The charge to operations for stock-based compensation, in accordance with FASB guidance, was approximately \$0.4 million during 2013, compared with approximately \$0.3 million for 2012.

#### Amortization of DPAC

Amortization of DPAC increased \$8.1 million, or 61.8%, to \$21.4 million for 2013, compared with \$13.3 million for 2012, which corresponds to the increase in net premiums earned during this same period.

Amortization of DPAC, consists of the actual policy acquisition costs, including commissions, payroll and premium taxes, less commissions earned on reinsurance ceded and policy fees earned.

#### Provision for Income Tax Expense

The provision for income tax expense was \$6.5 million for 2013, compared with \$2.4 million for 2012. The effective rate for income taxes was 33.8% for 2013, compared with 36.1% for 2012.

#### Net Income

Net income increased \$8.4 million, or 195.1%, to \$12.7 million for 2013, compared with \$4.3 million for 2012.

#### CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

A summary of long-term contractual obligations as of December 31, 2014 follows. The amounts represent estimates of gross undiscounted amounts payable over time.

(Dollars in Thousands)						
Contractual Obligations	Total	2015	2016	2017	2018	Thereafter
Unpaid Losses and LAE	\$78,330	\$46,497	\$18,729	\$8,616	\$3,008	\$ 1,480
Operating leases	3,378	698	712	726	740	502
Total	\$81,708	\$47,195	\$19,441	\$9,342	\$3,748	\$ 1,982

#### LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

In 2014, our primary sources of capital included proceeds from the sale of investment securities, increased unearned premiums, issuance of common stock, increased unpaid losses and LAE, increased accounts payable and accrued expenses, amortization of investment premium discount, net and increased claims payments outstanding. Additional

sources of capital included increased premium deposits and customer credit balances, decreased policy acquisition costs, net of amortization, non-cash compensation, exercised stock options, decreased deferred income tax expense, net of other comprehensive income and a tax benefit related to non-cash compensation. Because we are a holding company, we are largely dependent upon fees and commissions from our subsidiaries for cash flow.

In 2014, 2013 and 2012, net cash provided by operating activities was \$63.1 million, \$79.7 million and \$1.5 million, respectively.

In 2014, operations generated \$140.9 million of gross cash flow, due to a \$64.1 million increase in unearned premiums, a \$17.3 million increase in unpaid losses and LAE, a \$4.5 million increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses, \$4.2 million of amortization of investment premium discount, net and a \$4.0 million increase in claims payments outstanding. Additional sources of cash included a \$3.5 million increase in premium deposits and customer credit balances, a \$3.1 million decrease in policy acquisition costs, net of amortization, \$1.7 million non-cash compensation, a \$1.2 million decrease in deferred income tax expense, net of other comprehensive income and \$0.1 million depreciation and amortization, all in conjunction with \$37.2 million of net income.

- 66 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

In 2014, operations used \$77.7 million of gross cash flow primarily due to a \$46.9 million increase in prepaid reinsurance premiums, a \$9.8 million increase in reinsurance recoverable, net, a \$4.9 million increase in premiums receivable, \$4.4 million in net realized investment gains and a \$4.0 million increase in other assets. Additional uses of cash included a \$3.5 increase in contingent quota-share profit sharing, a \$2.4 million decrease in income taxes payable and a \$1.8 million increase in income taxes recoverable.

In 2014, net cash used by investing activities was \$107.9 million. In 2013 and 2012, net cash used and provided by investing activities was \$87.1 million and \$4.3 million, respectively. Our available-for-sale investment portfolio is highly liquid as it consists entirely of readily marketable securities. In 2014, investing activities generated \$87.2 million and used \$195.1 million.

In 2014, net cash provided by financing activities was \$43.5 million. In 2013 and 2012, net cash provided by financing activities was \$27.7 million and less than \$0.1 million, respectively. In 2014, the sources of cash in connection with financing activities included \$43.1 million from issuance of common stock, \$1.6 million from exercised stock options and a \$0.5 million tax benefit related to non-cash compensation. In 2014, the use of cash in connection with financing activities was \$1.7 million of dividends paid.

We offer direct billing in connection with our homeowners' and commercial general liability programs. Direct billing is an agreement in which the insurance company accepts from the insured, as a receivable, a promise to pay the premium, as opposed to requiring the full amount of the policy at policy inception, either directly from the insured or from a premium finance company. The advantage of direct billing a policyholder by the insurance company is that we are not reliant on a credit facility, but remain able to charge and collect interest from the policyholder.

As discussed above, we have experienced significant growth, as evidenced by the 55.0% increase in gross premiums written during 2014 as compared with 2013 and the 56.8% increase in the number of our in-force homeowners' policies during 2014.

We believe that our current capital resources will be sufficient to meet currently anticipated working capital requirements. There can be no assurances, however, that such will be the case. We continue to evaluate our liquidity and the possibility that we may require additional working capital.

GAAP differs in some respects from reporting practices prescribed or permitted by the Florida OIR. FNIC's statutory capital and surplus was \$125.3 million and \$76.9 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. FNIC's statutory net income was \$29.2 million, \$3.6 million and \$6.6 million for 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. FNIC's statutory non-admitted assets were \$0.1 million and nearly nothing as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

As of December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as "structured finance" or "special purpose" entities, which were established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance-sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. As such, management believes that we currently are not exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risks that could arise if we had engaged in transactions of that type requiring disclosure herein.

#### IMPACT OF INFLATION AND CHANGING PRICES

The consolidated financial statements and related data presented in this Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with GAAP, which requires the measurement of financial position and operating results in terms of historical dollars without considering changes in the relative purchasing power of money over time due to inflation.

Our primary assets and liabilities are monetary in nature. As a result, interest rates have a more significant impact on performance than the effects of general levels of inflation. Interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction or with the same magnitude as the inflationary effect on the cost of paying losses and LAE.

Insurance premiums are established before we know the amount of losses and LAE and the extent to which inflation may affect such expenses. Consequently, we attempt to anticipate the future impact of inflation when establishing rate levels. While we attempt to charge adequate premiums, we may be limited in raising premium levels for competitive and regulatory reasons. Inflation may also affect the market value of our investment portfolio and the investment rate of return. Any future economic changes that result in prolonged and increasing levels of inflation could cause increases in the dollar amount of incurred losses and LAE and thereby materially adversely affect future liability requirements.

- 67 -

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

# SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (Unaudited)

	Year Ended December 31, 2014 (Dollars in Thousands except EPS)			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenue:				
Net premiums earned	\$44,004	\$51,433	\$34,518	\$40,950
Other revenue	5,711	7,570	8,632	7,874
Total revenue	49,715	59,003	43,150	48,824
Expenses:				
Losses and LAE	20,828	24,522	15,126	20,560
Other expenses	15,159	16,487	16,569	14,134
Total expenses	35,987	41,009	31,695	34,694
Income before provision for income tax expense Provision for income tax expense	13,728 5,305	17,994 6,440	11,455 4,228	14,130 4,135
Net income	\$8,423	\$11,554	\$7,227	\$9,995
Basic net income per share	\$0.77	\$1.04	\$0.57	\$0.73
Fully diluted net income per share	\$0.74	\$1.01	\$0.56	\$0.72
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	10,949	11,096	12,625	13,624
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding (assuming dilution)	11,317	11,481	12,956	13,930
- 68 -				

# **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2013 (Dollars in Thousands except EPS)

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenue:				
Net premiums earned	\$18,261	\$23,742	\$27,315	\$35,063
Other revenue	3,607	4,436	4,605	4,708
Total revenue	21,868	28,178	31,920	39,771
Expenses:				
Losses and LAE	9,323	12,821	14,439	19,827
Other expenses	8,813	11,302	12,695	13,299
Total expenses	18,136	24,123	27,134	33,126
Income before provision for income tax expense	3,732	4,055	4,786	6,645
Provision for income tax expense	1,397	1,511	1,504	2,079
Net income	\$2,335	\$2,544	\$3,282	\$4,566
Basic net income per share	\$0.29	\$0.32	\$0.41	\$0.48
Fully diluted net income per share	\$0.29	\$0.31	\$0.39	\$0.46
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	7,983	8,020	8,067	9,391
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding (assuming dilution)	8,127	8,274	8,346	9,731

## OFF BALANCE SHEET TRANSACTIONS

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, we had no off balance sheet transactions.

- 69 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company

## ITEM 7A QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our investment objective is to maximize total rate of return after federal income taxes while maintaining liquidity and minimizing risk. Our current investment policy limits investment in non-investment-grade debt securities (including high-yield bonds), and limits total investments in preferred stock, common stock and mortgage notes receivable. We also comply with applicable laws and regulations that further restrict the type, quality and concentration of our investments. In general, these laws and regulations permit investments, within specified limits and subject to certain qualifications, in federal, state and municipal obligations, corporate bonds, preferred and common equity securities and real estate mortgages.

Our investment policy is established by the Board of Directors Investment Committee and is reviewed on a regular basis. Pursuant to this investment policy, as of December 31, 2014, approximately 88% of investments were in debt securities and cash and cash equivalents, which are considered to be either held until maturity or available-for-sale, based upon our estimates of required liquidity. Approximately 97% of the debt securities are considered available-for-sale and are marked to market. We may in the future consider additional debt securities to be held-to-maturity and carried at amortized cost. We do not use any swaps, options, futures or forward contracts to hedge or enhance our investment portfolio.

The following table provides information about the financial instruments as of December 31, 2014 that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. The table presents principal cash flows and the related weighted average interest rate by expected maturity date based upon par values.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total	Carrying Amount
Principal amount by expected maturity: United States government								
obligations and								
authorities	\$1,246	\$2,714	\$5,482	\$5,880	\$7,200	\$ 26,878	\$49,400	\$50,489
Obligations of states and political								
subdivisions	5,640	9,540	18,700	10,635	12,305	24,685	81,505	91,614
Corporate securities	6,594	17,009	19,327	16,362	14,528	31,197	105,017	111,667
International								
securities	1,241	2,087	2,125	2,342	1,565	1,752	11,112	11,384
Collateralized								
mortgage obligations	1,795	3,679	3,819	1,885	5,494	8,173	24,845	26,362
Equity securities, at								20.247
market	- 016516	- \$25,020	- ¢ 40, 452	- ¢27.104	- ¢ 41 002	- \$ 02 695	- ¢271.970	39,247
All investments	\$16,516	\$35,029	\$49,453	\$37,104	\$41,092	\$ 92,685	\$271,879	\$330,763
Weighted average interest rate by expected maturity: United States government	0.27 %	o 1.61 %	o 0.70 %	o 1.19 %	5 1.69 %	5 2.36 %	5 1.84 %	<b>,</b>

Edgar Filing: FEDERATED NATIONAL HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

obligations and authorities														
Obligations of states														
and political														
subdivisions	4.49	%	4.73	%	4.64	%	5.01	%	5.04	%	4.86	%	4.82	%
Corporate securities	4.38	%	4.02	%	3.50	%	4.70	%	4.96	%	4.31	%	4.27	%
International														
securities	0.85	%	2.15	%	2.42	%	2.89	%	2.51	%	3.91	%	2.54	%
Collateralized														
mortgage obligations	5.24	%	5.56	%	3.93	%	3.46	%	4.23	%	3.93	%	4.30	%
Equity securities, at														
market	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%	0.00	%
All investments	3.94	%	4.08	%	3.61	%	4.06	%	4.22	%	3.85	%	3.92	%

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company

# ITEM 8 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

# INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	72
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013	73
Consolidated Statements of Operations For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	74
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	75
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	76
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	77
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	79
- 71 -	

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries

#### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Federated National Holding Company

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Federated National Holding Company as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2014. We also have audited Federated National Holdings Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Federated National Holdings Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Item 9A Controls and Procedures. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Federated National Holding Company as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our

opinion, Federated National Holdings Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

Goldstein Schechter Koch Fort Lauderdale, FL March 16, 2015

- 72 -

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

ASSETS	Period End December 31, 2014 (Dollars in Thousands	December 31, 2013
Investments  Debt motivities evailable for calcust fair value	¢294,000	¢ 174 012
Debt maturities, available for sale, at fair value  Debt maturities, held to maturity, at amortized cost	\$284,099 7,417	\$174,912 7,214
Equity securities, available for sale, at fair value	39,247	38,584
Equity securities, available for safe, at fair value	37,247	30,304
Total investments	330,763	220,710
Cash and short term investments	40,157	41,446
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	54,502	7,592
Premiums receivable, net of allowance for credit losses of \$148 and \$143, respectively	27,275	22,414
Reinsurance recoverable, net	12,534	2,742
Deferred policy acquisition costs	13,610	16,708
Deferred income taxes, net	-	1,006
Income taxes receivable	1,810	-
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,749	929
Other assets	7,231	3,194
Contingent quota-share profit sharing	14,000	-
Total assets	\$503,631	\$316,741
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Unpaid losses and LAE	\$78,330	\$61,016
Unearned premiums	192,424	128,343
Premiums deposits and customer credit balances	7,381	3,833
Claims payments outstanding	10,152	6,203
Income taxes payable	-	2,379
Deferred income taxes, net	1,341	_
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	10,924	6,473
Deferred quota-share profit sharing	10,500	-
Total liabilities	311,052	208,247
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 25,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding		
13,632,414 and 10,901,716, respectively	136	109
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value. Authorized 1,000,000 shares; none issued or outstanding	_	-
Additional paid-in capital	127,302	80,525
Accumulated other comprehensive income	•	
Unrealized net gains on investments, available for sale	7,718	5,964
Total accumulated other comprehensive income	7,718	5,964
Retained earnings	57,423	21,896

Total shareholders' equity Total liabilities and shareholders' equity 192,579 108,494 \$503,631 \$316,741

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 73 -

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

	Twelve Months Ended December 31,					
	2014 2013 2012					
	(Dollars in Thousands except EPS and					
	Share and Dividend Data)					
Revenue:						
Gross premiums written	\$377,156	\$243,373	\$119,459			
Gross premiums ceded	(201,998	(82,708	(51,085)			
Net premiums written	175,158	160,665	68,374			
Increase in prepaid reinsurance premiums	59,828	13,052	2,059			
Increase in unearned premiums			) (11,074 )			
1		,	, , , ,			
Net change in prepaid reinsurance premiums and unearned premiums	(4,253	) (56,284	(9,015)			
Net premiums earned	170,905	104,381	59,359			
Commission income	4,517	2,646	1,377			
Finance revenue	1,466	866	496			
Direct written policy fees	8,689	6,196	2,007			
Net investment income	5,385	3,332	3,819			
Net realized investment gains	4,426	2,881	1,072			
Other income	2,512	1,435	517			
Quota-share profit sharing, net	2,792	_	_			
	,					
Total revenue	200,692	121,737	68,647			
Expenses:						
Losses and LAE	81,036	56,410	30,209			
Operating and underwriting expenses	19,906	14,474	9,996			
Salaries and wages	14,968	10,188	8,439			
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	27,475	21,447	13,255			
Total expenses	143,385	102,519	61,899			
Income before provision for income tax expense	57,307	19,218	6,748			
Provision for income tax expense	20,108	6,491	2,435			
1 Tovision for meome tax expense	20,100	0,471	2,733			
Net income	\$37,199	\$12,727	\$4,313			
Net income per share - basic	\$3.08	\$1.50	\$0.53			
Net income per share - diluted	\$2.99	\$1.45	\$0.53			
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - basic	12,082,269	8,505,967	7,951,906			

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - diluted 12,438,418 8,772,060 8,016,110

Dividends paid per share \$0.13 \$0.11

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 74 -

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012		
	(Dollars in Thousands)				
Net income	\$37,199	\$12,727	\$4,313		
Change in net unrealized gains on investments available for sale	2,856	3,041	5,114		
Comprehensive income before tax	40,055	15,768	9,427		
Income tax expense related to items of other comprehensive income	(1,102)	(1,144)	(1,924)		
Comprehensive income	\$38,953	\$14,624	\$7,503		

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 75 -

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

	Income	e <b>fixiwe</b> mor Stock in Thousa	Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensiv Income		Total Shareholde Equity	ers'
Balance as of December 31, 2011		79	50,940	877	6,248	58,144	
Net income Cash dividends Treasury stock acquired	\$4,313				4,313 (159 )	4,313 (159	)
Stock options exercised Shares based compensation Net unrealized change in investments, net of		1	128 288			129 288	
tax effect of (\$1,924) Comprehensive income	3,190 \$7,503			3,190		3,190	
Balance as of December 31, 2012		80	51,356	4,067	10,402	65,905	
Net income Cash dividends	\$12,727				12,727 (1,233)	12,727 (1,233	)
Stock issued for capital raised Treasury stock acquired		28	27,851			27,879 -	
Stock options exercised Shares based compensation Net unrealized change in investments, net of		1	857 461			858 461	
tax effect of (\$1,144) Comprehensive income	1,897 \$14,624			1,897		1,897	
Balance as of December 31, 2013		109	80,525	5,964	21,896	108,494	
Net income Cash dividends	\$37,199				37,199 (1,672)	37,199 (1,672	)
Stock issued for capital raised Treasury stock acquired		23	43,086			43,109	
Stock options exercised Shares based compensation Net unrealized change in investments, net of		4	1,551 2,140			1,555 2,140	
tax effect of (\$1,102) Comprehensive income	1,754 \$38,953			1,754		1,754	
Balance as of December 31, 2014		\$ 136	\$127,302	\$ 7,718	\$57,423	\$ 192,579	

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

# Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2012			
	(Dollars in	_01_			
Cash flow from operating activities:	(=				
Net income	\$37,199	\$12,727	\$4,313		
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	•	,	,		
Amortization of investment premium or discount, net	4,165	1,761	1,356		
Depreciation and amortization of property plant and equipment, net	149	263	195		
Net realized investment gains	(4,426	) (2,881 )	(1,072)		
Non-cash impairment recognition	_	-	(44)		
Recovery for credit losses, net	-	-	(12)		
(Recovery) provision for uncollectible premiums receivable	(5	) (74 )	5		
Non-cash compensation	1,660	293	188		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
Premiums receivable	(4,855	) (14,317 )	(2,412)		
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	(46,911	) (546 )	1,293		
Reinsurance recoverable, net	(9,793	) 761	(1,415)		
Income taxes recoverable	(1,810	) 39	(39)		
Deferred income tax expense, net of other comprehensive income	1,245	2,188	2,350		
Policy acquisition costs, net of amortization	3,098	(8,229)	(761)		
Other assets	(4,037	) (536 )	(552)		
Contingent quota-share profit sharing	(3,500	) -	-		
Unpaid losses and LAE	17,315	11,108	(10,075)		
Unearned premiums	64,081	69,336	11,074		
Premium deposits and customer credit balances	3,548	1,376	(347)		
Income taxes payable	(2,379	) 2,379	(77)		
Claims payments outstanding	3,949	216	(1,942)		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,451	3,849	(486)		
Net cash provided by operating activities	63,144	79,713	1,540		
Cash flow (used) provided by investing activities:					
Proceeds from sale of investment securities	87,151	106,173	90,449		
Purchases of investment securities available for sale	(194,087)	) (192,627)	(86,203)		
Purchases of property and equipment	(969	) (629 )	83		
Net cash (used) provided by investing activities	(107,905	) (87,083)	4,329		
Cash flow provided by financing activities:					
Exercised stock options	\$1,555	\$858	\$128		
Dividends paid	( )	) (1,232 )	(159)		
Issuance of common stock	43,110	27,879	-		
Tax benefit related to non-cash compensation	479	168	100		
Net cash provided by financing activities	43,472	27,673	69		
Net (decrease) increase in cash and short term investments	( )	) 20,303	5,938		
Cash and short term investments at beginning of period	41,446	21,143	15,205		
Cash and short term investments at end of period	\$40,157	\$41,446	\$21,143		

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

For the Years Ended

December 31,

(continued) 2014 2013 2012

(Dollars in Thousands)

Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:

Cash paid during the period for:

Income taxes \$19,185 \$1,870 \$165

Non-cash investing and finance activities:

Accrued dividends payable \$564 \$330 \$159

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 78 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

### (1) ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Federated National Holding Company ("FNHC", "Company", "we", "us"), formerly known as 21st Century Holding Company is an insurance holding company that controls substantially all steps in the insurance underwriting, distribution and claims processes through our subsidiaries and our contractual relationships with our independent agents and general agents. We changed our name on September 11, 2012, pursuant to approval received at our annual shareholders' meeting, from 21st Century Holding Company so that our parent company and other subsidiary companies' names are consistent with our primary insurance subsidiary and the name under which we have been writing insurance for more than 23 years.

We are authorized to underwrite, and/or place through our wholly owned subsidiaries, homeowners' multi-peril ("homeowners"), commercial general liability, federal flood, personal auto and various other lines of insurance in Florida and various other states. We market and distribute our own and third-party insurers' products and our other services through a network of independent agents.

Our insurance subsidiary is Federated National Insurance Company ("FNIC"). FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Florida. An admitted carrier is an insurance company that has received a license from the state department of insurance giving the company the authority to write specific lines of insurance in that state. These companies are also bound by rate and form regulations, and are strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud. Admitted carriers are also required to financially contribute to the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders. Through contractual relationships with a network of approximately 3,600 independent agents, of which approximately 2,300 actively sell and service our products, FNIC is authorized to underwrite homeowners', commercial general liability, fire, allied lines and personal and commercial automobile insurance in Florida. FNIC is licensed as an admitted carrier in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas and underwrites commercial general liability insurance in those states. FNIC also underwrites homeowners' insurance in Louisiana and Alabama, commencing in October 2014. Additionally, we underwrite personal automobile insurance in Georgia and Texas.

FNIC is licensed as a non-admitted carrier in Missouri, Nevada and South Carolina and can underwrite commercial general liability insurance in all of these states. Currently, we do not have any operations in these states. A non-admitted carrier, sometimes referred to as a "excess and surplus lines" carrier, is permitted to do business in a state and, although it is strictly regulated to protect policyholders from a variety of illegal and unethical practices, including fraud, non-admitted carriers are subject to considerably less regulation with respect to policy rates and forms. Non-admitted carriers are not required to financially contribute to and benefit from the state guarantee fund, which is used to pay for losses if an insurance carrier becomes insolvent or unable to pay the losses due their policyholders.

We internally process claims made by our insureds through our wholly owned claims adjusting company, Federated National Adjusting, Inc. ("FNA"). Our agents have no authority to settle claims or otherwise exercise control over the claims process. Furthermore, we believe that the retention of independent adjusters, in addition to the employment of salaried claims personnel, results in reduced ultimate loss payments, lower Loss and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") and improved customer service for our claimants and policyholders. We also employ an in-house litigation management team to cost effectively manage claims-related litigation and to monitor our claims handling practices for efficiency and regulatory compliance.

During 2014, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation ("Florida OIR") approved an application to allow the claims administration operations of FNA to be assumed by FedNat Underwriters, Inc. ("FNU"), formerly known as Federated National Underwriters Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Under the amended managing general agency agreement between FNU and FNIC, FNU will provide the same claims administration services under the same fee structure. The combination of these services in FNU had no effect on consolidated net income.

FNU acts as FNIC's exclusive managing general agent in Florida and is also licensed as a managing general agent in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina and Texas. FNU has contracted with other unaffiliated insurance companies to sell personal umbrella through FNU's existing network of agents.

FNU earns commissions and fees for providing policy administration, marketing, accounting and analytical services, and for participating in the negotiation of reinsurance contracts. FNU earns a per policy fee which ranges from \$25 to \$55 and a commission fee from its affiliate, FNIC, which totaled 4% during 2014. The Florida OIR periodically reviews our managing general agent's fee structure to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate to operate.

- 79 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

The homeowner policy provides FNU the right to cancel any policy within a period of 90 days from the policy's inception with 25 days' notice, or after 90 days from policy inception with 95 days' notice, even if the risk falls within our underwriting criteria.

Although we are authorized to underwrite the various lines described above, our business is primarily underwriting homeowners' policies. During 2014, 91.4%, 3.3%, 2.0% and 3.3% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively. During 2014, \$39.6 million or 11.0% of the \$344.9 million of homeowners' premiums we underwrote were produced under an agency agreement with Ivantage Select Agency, Inc. ("ISA"), an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company, that grants Allstate agents the authority to offer certain FNU products. The \$39.6 million of homeowners' premiums produced under this agreement with ISA represents 31.0% of the total increase in the sale of homeowners' policies during 2014, compared with 2013. This network of agents began writing for FNIC in March 2013. During 2013, 89.6%, 4.3%, 2.6% and 3.5% of the premiums we underwrote were for homeowners', commercial general liability, federal flood, and personal automobile insurance, respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 or 2012, we did not experience any weather-related catastrophic events such as the hurricanes that occurred in Florida during 2005 and 2004. We are not able to predict how hurricanes or other insurable events will affect our future results of operations and liquidity. LAE is affected by a number of factors, many of which are partially or entirely beyond our control, including the following.

- ·the nature and severity of the loss;
- ·weather-related patterns;
- ·the availability, cost and terms of reinsurance;
- ·underlying settlement costs, including medical and legal costs;
- ·legal and political factors such as legislative initiatives and public opinion;
- · macroeconomic issues.

Our business, results of operations and financial condition are subject to fluctuations due to a variety of factors. Abnormally high severity or frequency of claims in any period could have a material adverse effect on us. When our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are less than the actuarially determined amounts, we increase the expense in the current period. Conversely, when our estimated liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE are greater than the actuarially determined amounts, we decrease the expense in the current period.

We previously entered into a Coexistence Agreement effective August 30, 2013 (the "Coexistence Agreement") with Federated Mutual Insurance Company ("Federated Mutual") pursuant to which, among other things, we may continue to use "Federated" until at least August 30, 2020, after which time we have agreed to either cease using "Federated" in commerce or otherwise adopt and use trade names that are not confusingly similar to Federated Mutual's trademarks. We continue to develop our brand under the "FedNat" name, which is the name by which agents generally know us.

We are focusing our marketing efforts on continuing to expand our distribution network while maintaining our commitment to long-term relationships. We market our products and services throughout Florida and in other states by establishing relationships with additional independent agents and general agents. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be able to obtain the required regulatory approvals to offer additional insurance products or expand into other states.

#### (2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

## (a) CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

We consider all short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of less than three months to be short term investments.

#### (b) INVESTMENTS

Our investment securities have been classified as either available-for-sale or held-to-maturity in response to our liquidity needs, changes in market interest rates and asset-liability management strategies, among other reasons. Investments available-for-sale are stated at fair value on the balance sheet. Investments designated as held-to-maturity are stated at amortized cost on the balance sheet. Unrealized gains and losses are excluded from earnings and are reported as a component of other comprehensive income within shareholders' equity, net of related deferred income taxes.

- 80 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

A decline in the fair value of an available-for-sale security below cost that is deemed other-than-temporary results in a charge to income, resulting in the establishment of a new cost basis for the security. Premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted, respectively, over the life of the related debt security as an adjustment to yield using a method that approximates the effective interest method. Dividends and interest income are recognized when earned. Realized gains and losses are included in earnings and are derived using the specific-identification method for determining the cost of securities sold.

#### (c) PREMIUM REVENUE

Premium revenue on all lines is earned on a pro-rata basis over the life of the policies. Unearned premiums represent the portion of the premium related to the unexpired policy term.

### (d) DEFERRED ACQUISITION COSTS

Deferred acquisition costs primarily represent commissions paid to outside agents at the time of policy issuance (to the extent they are recoverable from future premium income) net of ceded premium commission earned from reinsurers, salaries and premium taxes net of policy fees, and are amortized over the life of the related policy in relation to the amount of premiums earned. The method followed in computing deferred acquisition costs limits the amount of such deferred costs to their estimated realizable value, which gives effect to the premium to be earned, related investment income, unpaid losses and LAE and certain other costs expected to be incurred as the premium is earned. There is no indication that these costs will not be fully recoverable in the near term.

#### (e) PREMIUM DEPOSITS

Premium deposits represent premiums received primarily in connection with homeowner policies that are not yet effective. We take approximately 30 working days to issue the policy from the date the cash and policy application are received.

#### (f) UNPAID LOSSES AND LAE

Unpaid losses and LAE are determined by establishing liabilities in amounts estimated to cover incurred losses and LAE. Such liabilities are determined based upon our assessment of claims pending and the development of prior years' loss liability. These amounts include liabilities based upon individual case estimates for reported losses and LAE and estimates of such amounts that are incurred but not yet reported ("IBNR"). Changes in the estimated liability are charged or credited to operations as the losses and LAE are settled.

The estimates of the liability for unpaid losses and LAE are subject to the effect of trends in claims severity and frequency and are continually reviewed. As part of this process, we review historical data and consider various factors, including known and anticipated legal developments, inflation and economic conditions. As experience develops and other data become available, these estimates are revised, as required, resulting in increases or decreases to the existing liability for unpaid losses and LAE. Adjustments are reflected in results of operations in the period in which they are made and the liabilities may deviate substantially from prior estimates.

There can be no assurance that our liability for unpaid losses and LAE will be adequate to cover actual losses. If our liability for unpaid losses and LAE proves to be inadequate, we will be required to increase the liability with a corresponding reduction in our net income in the period in which the deficiency is identified. Future loss experience

substantially in excess of established liability for unpaid losses and LAE could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Accounting for loss contingencies pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued guidance involves the existence of a condition, situation or set of circumstances involving uncertainty as to possible loss that will ultimately be resolved when one or more future event(s) occur or fail to occur. Additionally, accounting for a loss contingency requires management to assess each event as probable, reasonably possible or remote. Probable is defined as the future event or events are likely to occur. Reasonably possible is defined as the chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than probable, while remote is defined as the chance of the future event or events occurring is slight. An estimated loss in connection with a loss contingency shall be recorded by a charge to current operations if both of the following conditions are met: First, the amount can be reasonably estimated, and second, the information available prior to issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred at the date of the financial statements. It is implicit in this condition that it is probable that one or more future events will occur confirming the fact of the loss or incurrence of a liability.

- 81 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

We do not discount unpaid losses and LAE for financial statement purposes.

#### (g) FINANCE REVENUE

Interest and service income, resulting from the financing of insurance premiums, is recognized using a method that approximates the effective interest method. Late charges are recognized as income when chargeable.

### (h) PREMIUMS RECEIVABLE, NET OF ALLOWANCE FOR CREDIT LOSSES

Provisions for credit losses are provided in amounts sufficient to maintain the allowance for credit losses at a level considered adequate to cover anticipated losses. Generally, accounts that are over 90 days old are written off to the allowance for credit losses. We have been increasing our reliance on direct billing of our policyholders for their insurance premiums. Direct billing is when the insurance company accepts from the insured, as a receivable, a promise to pay the premium, as opposed to requiring payment of the full amount of the policy, either directly from the insured or from a premium finance company. We manage the credit risk associated with our direct billing program through our integrated computer system which allows us to monitor the equity in the unearned premium to the underlying policy. Underwriting criteria are designed with down payment requirements and monthly payments that create policyholder equity, also called unearned premium, in the insurance policy. The equity in the policy is collateral for the extension of credit to the insured.

#### (i) MANAGING GENERAL AGENT ("MGA") FEES

If all the costs substantially associated with the MGA contracts, which do not involve affiliated insurers, are incurred during the underwriting process, then the MGA fees and the related acquisition costs are recognized at the time the policy is underwritten, net of estimated cancellations. If the MGA contract requires significant involvement subsequent to the completion of the underwriting process, then the MGA fees and related acquisition costs are deferred and recognized over the life of the policy. Included in MGA Fees are policy fees charged by the insurance companies and passed through to FNU. Policy fees are discussed below.

### (i) POLICY FEES

Policy fees range from \$25 to \$55 and represent a non-refundable application fee for insurance coverage, which are intended to reimburse us for the costs incurred to underwrite the policy. The fees and related costs are recognized when the policy is underwritten. These fees are netted against underwriting costs and are included as a component of deferred acquisition costs.

#### (k) REINSURANCE

We recognize the income and expense on reinsurance contracts principally on a pro-rata basis over the term of the reinsurance contracts or until the reinsurers maximum liability is exhausted, whichever comes first. We are reinsured under separate reinsurance agreements for the different lines of business underwritten. Reinsurance contracts do not relieve us from our obligations to policyholders. We continually monitor our reinsurers to minimize our exposure to significant losses from reinsurer insolvencies. We only cede risks to reinsurers whom we believe to be financially sound. At December 31, 2014, all reinsurance recoverables are considered current and deemed collectable.

### (1) INCOME TAXES

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the estimated future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, and operating loss, capital loss and tax-credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income or expense in the period that includes the enactment date.

#### (m) CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

FNU earns commissions and fees for providing policy administration, marketing, accounting and analytical services, and for participating in the negotiation of reinsurance contracts. FNU earns a per policy fee which ranges from \$25 to \$55 and a commission fee from its affiliate, FNIC, which totaled 4% during 2014. The Florida OIR periodically reviews our managing general agent's fee structure to ensure that it is neither excessive nor inadequate to operate.

- 82 -

**Table of Contents** 

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

Financial instruments, which potentially expose us to concentrations of credit risk, consist primarily of investments, premiums receivable, amounts due from reinsurers on paid and unpaid losses and finance contracts. We have not experienced significant losses related to premiums receivable from individual policyholders or groups of policyholders in a particular industry or geographic area. We believe no credit risk beyond the amounts provided for collection losses is inherent in our premiums receivable or finance contracts. In order to reduce credit risk for amounts due from reinsurers, we seek to do business with financially sound reinsurance companies and regularly review the financial strength of all reinsurers used. Additionally, our credit risk in connection with our reinsurers is frequently mitigated by the establishment of irrevocable clean letters of credit in favor of FNIC.

### (n) RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") No. 2014-12: Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Accounting for Share-Based Payments When the Terms of an Award Provide That a Performance Target Could Be Achieved after the Requisite Service Period, a consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force. The amendments in this ASU apply to all reporting entities that grant their employees share-based payments in which the terms of the award provide that a performance target that affects vesting could be achieved after the requisite service period. That is the case when an employee is eligible to retire or otherwise terminate employment before the end of the period in which a performance target (for example, an initial public offering or a profitability target) could be achieved and still be eligible to vest in the award if and when the performance target is achieved. The amendments in the ASU require that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. Current U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") does not contain explicit guidance on whether to treat a performance target that could be achieved after the requisite service period as a performance condition that affects vesting or as a non-vesting condition that affects the grant-date fair value of an award. The amendments in this ASU provide explicit guidance for those awards. The amendments in this ASU are effective for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015, and, earlier adoption is permitted. The adoption of the amendments in this ASU will not have a material impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In July 2013, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") No. 2013-11: Income Taxes (Topic 740): Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists. Topic 740, Income Taxes, does not include explicit guidance on the financial statement presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists, and there is diversity in practice in the presentation of unrecognized tax benefit in those instances. The objective of the amendments in this ASU is to eliminate that diversity in practice. The ASU applies to all entities that have unrecognized tax benefits when a net operating loss carry forward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists at the operating date. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013 and early adoption is permitted. The amendments in this ASU should be applied prospectively to all unrecognized tax benefits that exist at the effective date and retrospective application is permitted. The adoption of the amendments in this ASU did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In February 2013, the FASB issued ASU No. 2013-02: Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. The objective of this ASU is to improve the reporting of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income. The amendments require an entity to report the effect of significant reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income on the respective line items in net income if the amount being reclassified is required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified in its entirety in

net income. For other amounts that are not required to be reclassified to net income in the same reporting period, an entity is required to cross-reference other disclosures required under U.S. GAAP that provide additional detail about those amounts. The amendments in the ASU do not change the current requirements for reporting net income or other comprehensive income in financial statements. The ASU is effective prospectively for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2012. The adoption of these amendments did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In January 2013, the FASB issued ASU No. 2013-01: Balance Sheet (Topic 210): Clarifying the Scope of Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities. The objective of this ASU is to clarify the scope of offsetting disclosures and to address implementation issues with ASU No. 2011-11, Balance Sheet (Topic 210): Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities. The amendments clarify that the scope of ASU 2011-11 applies to derivatives accounted for in accordance with Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging, including bifurcated embedded derivatives, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending transactions. An entity is required to apply the amendments for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. An entity should provide the required disclosures retrospectively for all comparative periods. The adoption of these amendments did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

- 83 -

**Table of Contents** 

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

In July 2012, the FASB issued ASU No. 2012-02: Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment. The objective of the amendments in this ASU is to reduce the cost and complexity of performing an impairment test for indefinite-lived intangible assets by simplifying how an entity tests those assets for impairment and to improve consistency in impairment testing guidance among long-lived asset categories. The amendments permit an entity first to assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the quantitative impairment test in accordance with Subtopic 350-30. The more-likely-than-not threshold is defined as having a likelihood of more than 50 percent. Upon adoption, these amendments are effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012; early adoption is permitted. The adoption of these amendments did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-05: Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income. The guidance in this ASU is intended to increase the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income in the financial statements by presenting the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. This ASU eliminates the option to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. The guidance in this ASU does not change the items that must be reported in other comprehensive income or when an item of other comprehensive income must be reclassified to net income. Upon adoption, this update is to be applied retrospectively and is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this ASU did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-12: Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05. The guidance defers certain provisions contained in ASU No. 2011-05 requiring the requirement to present components of reclassifications of other comprehensive income on the face of the income statement or in the notes to the financial statements. However, this deferral does not impact the other requirements contained in the new standard on comprehensive income as described above. This ASU is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of this ASU did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08: Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment, which amends ASC Topic 350, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other. The guidance in this ASU permits an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test described in ASC Topic 350. Under the amendments in this ASU, an entity is not required to calculate the fair value of a reporting unit unless the entity determines that it is more likely than not that its fair value is less than its carrying amount. The amendments are effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted, including for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed as of a date before September 15, 2011, if an entity's financial statements for the most recent annual or interim period have not yet been issued or, for nonpublic entities, have not yet been made available for issuance. The adoption of this ASU did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-11: Balance Sheet (Topic 210): Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities, which requires new disclosure requirements mandating that entities disclose both gross and net information about instruments and transactions eligible for offset in the statement of financial position as well as instruments and transactions subject to an agreement similar to a master netting arrangement. In addition, the standard requires disclosure of collateral received and posted in connection with master netting agreements or similar arrangements. This ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. The adoption of this ASU did not have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Other recent accounting pronouncements issued by FASB, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") did not or are not believed by management to have a material impact on the Company's present or future financial statements.

- 84 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

### (o) USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Future events and their effects cannot be determined with absolute certainty. Therefore, the determination of estimates requires the exercise of judgment. Actual results inevitably will differ from those estimates, and such differences may be material to the financial statements.

Similar to other property and casualty insurers, our liability for unpaid losses and LAE, although supported by actuarial projections and other data, is ultimately based on management's reasoned expectations of future events. Although considerable variability is inherent in these estimates, we believe that this liability is adequate. Estimates are reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary. Such adjustments are reflected in current operations. In addition, the realization of our deferred income tax assets is dependent on generating sufficient future taxable income. It is reasonably possible that the expectations associated with these accounts could change in the near term and that the effect of such changes could be material to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### (p) OPERATIONAL RISKS

We are subject to certain risks in our business operations which are described below. Careful consideration of these risks should be made before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing FNHC. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known or currently deemed immaterial may also impair our business operations.

#### Risks Related to Our Business

·Our financial condition could be adversely affected by the occurrence of natural and man-made disasters.

Although we follow the industry practice of reinsuring a portion of our risks, our costs of obtaining reinsurance fluctuates and we may not be able to successfully alleviate risk through reinsurance arrangements.

We face a risk of non-collectability of reinsurance, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

Our January 2011 Consent Order with the Florida OIR, as amended in February 2013, limits our business in certain respects and may prevent us from growing our business.

If we are unable to continue our growth because our capital must be used to pay greater than anticipated claims, our financial results may suffer.

- ·We may require additional capital in the future which may not be available or only available on unfavorable terms.
- ·Our business is heavily regulated, and changes in regulation may reduce our profitability and limit our growth.
- ·We may experience financial exposure from climate change.

.

Our loss reserves are estimates and may be inadequate to cover our actual liability for losses, causing our results of operations to be adversely affected.

- Our revenues and operating performance may fluctuate due to statutorily approved assessments that support property and casualty insurance pools and associations.
- ·Our investment portfolio may suffer reduced returns or losses, which would significantly reduce our earnings.
- ·We may experience a loss due to the concentration of credit risk.
- The failure of any of the loss limitation methods we employ could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or our results of operations.
- •The effects of emerging claim and coverage issues on our business are uncertain.
- 85 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

·Our failure to pay claims accurately could adversely affect our business, financial results and capital requirements.

Our insurance company is subject to minimum capital and surplus requirements, and our failure to meet these requirements could subject us to regulatory action.

Our revenues and operating performance may fluctuate with business cycles in the property and casualty insurance industry.

We may not obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to expand the types of insurance products we offer or the states in which we operate.

Adverse ratings by insurance rating agencies may adversely impact our ability to write new policies, renew desirable policies or obtain adequate insurance, which could limit or halt our growth and harm our business.

We rely on independent and general agents to write our insurance policies, and if we are not able to attract and retain independent and general agents, our revenues would be negatively affected.

Our business could be materially and adversely affected by a security breach or other attack involving our computer systems or the systems of one or more of our business partners or vendors.

We rely on our information technology and telecommunications systems, and the failure of these systems could disrupt our operations.

Nonstandard automobile insurance historically has a higher frequency of claims than standard automobile insurance, thereby increasing our potential for loss exposure beyond what we would be likely to experience if we offered only standard automobile insurance.

Florida's personal injury protection insurance statute contains provisions that favor claimants, causing us to experience a higher frequency of claims than might otherwise be the case if we operated only outside of Florida.

- ·Our success depends on our ability to accurately price the risks we underwrite.
- ·Current operating resources are necessary to develop future new insurance products.

Increased competition, competitive pressures, industry developments and market conditions could affect the growth of our business and adversely impact our financial results.

We may not obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to organize the new property and casualty insurer in Florida that is the subject of our previously announced joint venture.

Once Monarch is organized, we will be required to consolidate Monarch's financial results with ours. As a result, our financial results may be impacted by our percentage share of any losses that Monarch would be likely to experience in its first years of operations.

·We anticipate that Monarch will initially focus on the Florida homeowners' insurance market, which will increase our exposure to the factors that impact the Florida insurance market generally, such as the occurrence of hurricanes,

trends in claims experience, and the impact of changes in Florida insurance law and regulations.

Our participation in the Florida Property Insurance Clearinghouse may not result in an increase in our premium revenue.

Our senior management team is critical to the strategic direction of our company. If there were an unplanned loss of service by any of our officers our business could be harmed.

We are subject to extensive regulation and potential further restrictive regulation may increase our operating costs and limit our growth.

·New homeowners' insurance operations outside of the State of Florida may not be profitable.

- 86 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

We face risks in connection with potential material weakness resulting from our Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 management report and any related remedial measures that we undertake.

#### Risks Related to an Investment in Our Shares

Our stock price in recent years has been volatile and is likely to continue to be volatile. As a result, the market price of our common stock may drop below the price you pay, and you may not be able to resell your shares at a profit.

If we report a material weakness in our internal controls and procedures, we may lose investor confidence and remedial measures may be costly.

Our controls and procedures may fail or be circumvented which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

·We have authorized but unissued preferred stock, which could affect rights of holders of common stock.

Provisions in our articles of incorporation and our bylaws, as amended, and the Florida Business Corporation Act could make it more difficult to acquire us and may reduce the market price of our common stock.

As a holding company, we depend on the earnings of our subsidiaries and their ability to pay management fees and dividends to the holding company as the primary source of our income.

·Future sales of our common stock may depress our stock price.

#### (q) FAIR VALUE

The fair value of our investments is estimated based on prices published by financial services or quotations received from securities dealers and is reflective of the interest rate environment that existed as of the close of business on December 31, 2014 and 2013. Changes in interest rates subsequent to December 31, 2014 may affect the fair value of our investments. Refer to Footnote 21 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for details.

The carrying amounts for the following financial instrument categories approximate their fair values at December 31, 2014 and 2013 because of their short-term nature: cash and short term investments, premiums receivable, finance contracts, due from reinsurers, revolving credit outstanding, bank overdraft, accounts payable and accrued expenses.

### (r) STOCK OPTION PLANS

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company had three stock-based employee compensation plans, which are described later in Footnote 14, Stock Compensation Plans. Prior to January 1, 2006, we accounted for the plans under the recognition and measurement provisions of stock-based compensation using the intrinsic value method prescribed by the Accounting Principles Board ("APB") and related Interpretation, as permitted by FASB issued guidance. Under these provisions, no stock-based employee compensation cost was recognized in the Statement of Operations as all options granted under those plans had an exercise price equal to or less than the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted the fair value recognition provisions of FASB issued guidance using the modified-prospective-transition method. Under that transition method, compensation costs recognized during 2014, 2013 and 2012 include:

Compensation cost for all share-based payments granted prior to, but not yet vested as of January 1, 2006, based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of FASB issued guidance, and

Compensation cost for all share-based payments granted subsequent to January 1, 2006, based on the grant-date ·fair-value estimated in accordance with the provisions of FASB issued guidance. Results for prior periods have not been restated, as they are not required to be by the pronouncement.

- 87 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

### (s) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives: building and improvements - 30 years, furniture and fixtures - 7 years and computer equipment – 5 years. We capitalize betterments and any other expenditure in excess of \$1,000 if the asset is expected to have a useful life greater than one year. The carrying value of property, plant and equipment is periodically reviewed based on the expected future undiscounted operating cash flows of the related item. Based upon our most recent analysis, we believe that no impairment of property, plant and equipment exists at December 31, 2014.

### (t) RECLASSIFICATIONS

The 2013 and 2012 financial statement amounts have not been reclassified to conform to the 2014 presentations.

### (u) GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

At December 31, 2014, the Company purchased an intangible asset totaling \$0.5 million. In accordance with FASB issued guidance, the accounting for the recognized intangible asset will be based on its useful life to the Company. The useful life of the intangible asset is the period over which it is expected to contribute directly or indirectly to the future cash flows of the Company. The intangible asset has a definite finite life of twelve months, and will be amortized accordingly during 2015.

#### (3) INVESTMENTS

Total investments increased \$110.1 million, or 49.9%, to \$330.8 million as of December 31, 2014, compared with \$220.7 million as of December 31, 2013. This increase reflected the \$133.8 million increase in gross premiums written compared with 2013 and the \$43.4 million in net proceeds from the Company's August 2014 offering. The excess cash was invested primarily in the bond portfolio.

FASB issued guidance addresses accounting and reporting for (a) investments in equity securities that have readily determinable fair values and (b) all investments in debt securities. We account for our investment securities consistent with FASB issued guidance that requires our securities to be classified into one of three categories: (i) held-to-maturity, (ii) trading securities or (iii) available-for-sale.

Investments classified as held-to-maturity include debt securities wherein the Company's intent and ability are to hold the investment until maturity and are carried at amortized cost without consideration to unrealized gains or losses. Investments classified as trading securities include debt and equity securities bought and held primarily for sale in the near term and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses included in current period operations. Investments classified as available-for-sale include debt and equity securities that are not classified as held-to-maturity or as trading security investments and are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of shareholders' equity, namely "Other Comprehensive Income."

The debt and equity securities that are available-for-sale and carried at fair value represent 98% of total investments as of December 31, 2014, compared with 97% as of December 31, 2013.

We did not hold any trading investment securities during 2014.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, our investments consisted primarily of corporate bonds held in various industries, municipal bonds and United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2014, 77% of our debt portfolio was in diverse industries and 23% is in United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2014, approximately 88% of our equity holdings were in equities related to diverse industries and 12% were in mutual funds. As of December 31, 2013, 83% of our debt portfolio was in diverse industries and 17% is in United States government bonds. As of December 31, 2013, approximately 91% of our equity holdings were in equities related to diverse industries and 9% were in mutual funds.

The FASB issued guidance also addresses the determination as to when an investment is considered impaired, whether that impairment is other-than temporary, and the measurement of an impairment loss. The Company's policy for the valuation of temporarily impaired securities is to determine impairment based on the analysis of the following factors.

- ·rating downgrade or other credit event (eg., failure to pay interest when due);
- ·length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than amortized cost;

- 88 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

financial condition and near term prospects of the issuer, including any specific events which may influence the operations of the issuer such as changes in technology or discontinuance of a business segment;

·prospects for the issuer's industry segment;

intent and ability of the Company to retain the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery in market value;

·historical volatility of the fair value of the security.

Pursuant to FASB issued guidance, the Company records the unrealized losses, net of estimated income taxes that are associated with that part of our portfolio classified as available-for-sale through the shareholders' equity account titled "Other Comprehensive Income". Management periodically reviews the individual investments that comprise our portfolio in order to determine whether a decline in fair value below our cost either is other-than temporarily or permanently impaired. Factors used in such consideration include, but are not limited to, the extent and length of time over which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer and our ability and intent to keep the investment for a period sufficient to allow for an anticipated recovery in market value.

In reaching a conclusion that a security is either other-than-temporarily or permanently impaired we consider such factors as the timeliness and completeness of expected dividends, principal and interest payments, ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations such as Standard and Poor's ("S&P") and Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), as well as information released via the general media channels. During 2014 and 2013, in connection with the process, we have not charged any investment losses to operations. During 2012, in connection with the process, we have charged to operations \$44,000 of investment losses.

As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, all of our securities are in good standing and not impaired as defined by FASB issued guidance.

As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we have classified \$7.4 million and \$7.2 million, respectively, of our bond portfolio as held-to-maturity. We classify bonds as held-to-maturity to support securitization of credit requirements.

During 2014, we did not re-classify any of our bond portfolio between available-for-sale and held-to-maturity. During 2013 we reclassified \$150,000 of our bond portfolio to available-for-sale from held-to-maturity.

Two reinsurers require FNIC to maintain securities with a fair market value of \$4.9 million. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, FNIC maintained fully funded trust agreements that totaled \$4.9 million in favor of the reinsurers. In addition, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, \$1.0 million is held in a fully funded trust account in favor of another reinsurer under a prior program.

- 89 -

### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

## (a) DEBT AND EQUITY SECURITIES

The following table summarizes, by type, our investments as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	December 31, 2014 Percent		December 31, 2013			
					Percen	t
	Carrying	of		Carrying	of	
	Amount	Total		Amount	Total	
	(Dollars in Thousands)					
Debt securities, at market:						
United States government obligations and authorities	\$62,323	18.84	%	\$27,209	12.33	%
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	91,614	27.70	%	52,064	23.59	%
Corporate	119,024	35.99	%	91,941	41.66	%
International	11,138	3.37	%	3,698	1.68	%
	284,099	85.90	%	174,912	79.26	%
Debt securities, at amortized cost:						
United States government obligations and authorities	4,490	1.36	%	4,630	2.10	%
Corporate	2,681	0.81	%	2,475	1.12	%
International	246	0.07	%	109	0.05	%
	7,417	2.24	%	7,214	3.27	%
Total debt securities	291,516	88.14	%	182,126	82.53	%
Equity securities, at market:	39,247	11.86	%	38,584	17.47	%
Total investments	\$330,763	100.00	)%	\$220,710	100.00	0%

The following table shows the realized gains (losses) for debt and equity securities for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014		2013		
		Fair		Fair	
	Gains	Value	Gains	Value	
	(Losses)	at Sale	(Losses)	at Sale	
	(Dollars in Thousands)				
Debt securities	\$725	\$54,154	\$1,690	\$41,256	
Equity securities	4,489	14,104	2,858	12,052	
Total realized gains	5,214	68,258	4,548	53,308	
Debt securities	(147)	\$11,013	(1,001)	43,239	
Equity securities	(641)	2,236	(666)	3,564	
Total realized losses	(788)	13,249	(1,667)	46,803	
Net realized gains on investments	\$4,426	\$81,507	\$2,881	\$100,111	

## Table of Contents

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

A summary of the amortized cost, estimated fair value, gross unrealized gains and losses of debt and equity securities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 is as follows.

	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains Thousands)	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
December 31, 2014				
Debt Securities - Available-For-Sale: United States government obligations and authorities Obligations of states and political subdivisions Corporate International	\$61,376 90,728 117,778 11,139 \$281,021	\$ 1,022 956 1,578 53 \$ 3,609	\$ 75 70 332 54 \$ 531	\$62,323 91,614 119,024 11,138 \$284,099
Debt Securities - Held-To-Maturity:				
United States government obligations and authorities Corporate International	\$4,490 2,681 246 \$7,417	\$ 41 31 1 \$ 73	\$ 225 5 1 \$ 231	\$4,306 2,707 246 \$7,259
Equity securities - common stocks	\$29,908	\$ 9,836	\$ 497	\$39,247
December 31, 2013  Debt Securities - Available-For-Sale:				
United States government obligations and authorities Obligations of states and political subdivisions Corporate International	\$27,422 51,883 91,475 3,731 \$174,511	\$ 186 303 1,233 5 \$ 1,727	\$ 399 122 767 38 \$ 1,326	\$27,209 52,064 91,941 3,698 \$174,912
Debt Securities - Held-To-Maturity:				
United States government obligations and authorities Corporate International	\$4,630 2,475 109 \$7,214	\$ 32 22 - \$ 54	\$ 326 17 1 \$ 344	\$4,336 2,480 108 \$6,924
Equity securities - common stocks	\$29,423	\$ 9,436	\$ 275	\$38,584
- 91 -				

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

The table below reflects our unrealized investment losses by investment class, aged for length of time in an unrealized loss position.

	Unrealiz Losses	Less zed than 12 months	months or longer
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Debt securities:			
United States government obligations and authorities	\$75	\$ 22	\$ 53
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	70	66	4
Corporate	332	260	72
International	54	54	-
	531	402	129
Equity securities:			
Common stocks	497	461	36
Total debt and equity securities	\$1,028	\$ 863	\$ 165

Below is a summary of debt securities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 by contractual or expected maturity periods. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	December 31, 2014 Estimated		December	31, 2013 Estimated	
	Amortized	l Fair	Amortized Fair		
	Cost	Value	Cost	Value	
	(Dollars in Thousands)				
Due in one year or less Due after one through five years Due after five through ten years Due after ten years	\$16,777 173,236 98,404 26	\$16,797 174,273 100,259 33	\$5,161 113,027 62,656 881	\$5,181 113,561 62,220 874	
Total	\$288,443	\$291,362	\$181,725	\$181,836	

United States Treasury notes with a book value of \$61,465 and \$2,208,588, maturing in 2016 and 2022, respectively, were on deposit with the Florida OIR as of December 31, 2014, as required by law for FNIC, and are included with other investments held until maturity.

United States Treasury notes with a book value of \$62,490 and \$2,193,814, maturing in 2016 and 2022, respectively, were on deposit with the Florida OIR as of December 31, 2013, as required by law for FNIC, and are included with other investments held until maturity.

The table below sets forth investment results for the periods indicated.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 2012

(Dollars in Thousands)

Interest on debt securities \$4,775 \$2,850 \$3,380 Dividends on equity securities 553 478 436 Interest on cash and cash equivalents 57 4 3

Total investment income \$5,385 \$3,332 \$3,819

Net realized gains \$4,426 \$2,881 \$1,072

- 92 -

#### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

Proceeds from sales, pay downs and maturities of debt securities and proceeds from sales of equity securities in 2014, 2013 and 2012 were approximately \$87.2 million, \$106.2 million and \$90.4 million, respectively.

A summary of net realized investment gains follows.

Twelve Months Ended

December 31.

2012 2014 2013 (Dollars in Thousands)

Net realized gains

Debt securities \$578 \$689 \$1,392 Equity securities 3,848 2,192 (320)

Total \$4,426 \$2,881 \$1,072

A summary of net unrealized investment gains follows.

December December 31,

31, 2013 2014

(Dollars in

Thousands)

Net unrealized gains

Debt securities \$3,078 \$ 401 Equity securities 9,339 9,161

Total \$12,417 \$ 9,562

### (4) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consist of the following.

Years Ended December 31. 2014 2013 (Dollars in Thousands)

Computer equipment \$4,770 \$3,721 Furniture & fixtures 1,154 900 Property, plant and equipment, gross 5,924 4,621 Accumulated depreciation (4,175) (3,692)Property, plant and equipment, net \$1,749 \$929

Depreciation of property, plant, and equipment was \$482,750, \$263,334 and \$195,078 during 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

### **Table of Contents**

Federated National Holding Company and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2014

### (5) REINSURANCE

We reinsure (cede) a portion of written premiums on an excess of loss or a quota-share basis to nonaffiliated insurance companies in order to limit our loss exposure. To the extent that reinsuring companies are unable to meet their obligations assumed under these reinsurance agreements, we remain primarily liable to our policyholders.

The impact of the reinsurance treaties on the financial statements is as follows.

Years Ended December 31, 2014 2013 2012 (Dollars in Thousands)

Premium written

Direct and Assumed \$377,156 \$243,374 \$119,459 Ceded (201,998) (82,709) (51,085) \$175,158 \$160,665 \$68,374