

## **Richardson Takes the Reins at AAA - The Auto Club Group**

### *17 Years Since Last Leadership Change at North America's 2nd Largest AAA Club*

Tampa, FL ([PRWEB](#)) April 18, 2016 -- The revolving door of corporate leadership that is often the norm in today's business world is not the case at AAA – The Auto Club Group (ACG), the second largest AAA Club in North America, serving over 9 million members across its total territory. Joseph (Joe) J. Richardson Jr. was elected by ACG's board of directors and has stepped into the driver's seat as President and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Charles (Chuck) H. Podowski who recently retired after a successful 17-year career.

The leadership change comes as the super-regional auto club and insurance enterprise celebrates one of its most successful years and its upcoming 100th anniversary of AAA in Michigan and Tennessee.

“I am honored to have been given this opportunity to build on a solid foundation of success,” said Richardson. “We are a people-oriented business, and I am committed to investing in our employees, products, service delivery and communications in a way that meets the changing needs of our members, who are the lifeblood of our organization.”

In a strategic effort to ensure a smooth leadership change, a seamless transition was planned and executed over the past nine months during which Richardson worked side-by-side with Podowski and other senior officers to understand the company's values, priorities and business practices. Town hall meetings were held across the company's 11-state territory as a way to help him get acquainted with ACG's more than 8,000 employees. Richardson gradually assumed responsibilities for all business lines and departments within the organization.

Richardson is a third generation insurance executive who brings more than 30 years of experience in the property and casualty insurance, life insurance, financial services and roadside assistance industries. He has worked in multiple senior executive positions with Allstate Insurance Company and Farmers Insurance Group. Richardson most recently served as President and Head of Distribution for Farmers where he led countrywide strategy and field operations and expanded the Farmers brand into new markets. Prior to his position at Farmers, he held the position of Executive Vice President at Allstate. He earned a B.A. at Temple University and he is a graduate fellow of the advanced executive program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Richardson serves on the boards of directors of Business Leaders for Michigan, Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) President's Council and the Henry Ford Health System. He is married and has four children.

#### About The Auto Club Group

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, travel, insurance and financial services offerings to over 9 million members across eleven states and two U.S. territories including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois and Minnesota; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with more than 56 million members in the United States and Canada and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety.



**Contact Information**

**Josh Carrasco**

AAA - The Auto Club Group

<http://aaa.com>

+1 (813) 288-7982

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