

# Donegal Group Inc. Announces Third Quarter and First Nine Months of 2021 Results

October 27, 2021 8:05 PM EDT

MARIETTA, Pa., Oct. 27, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Donegal Group Inc. (NASDAQ:DGICA) and (NASDAQ:DGICB) today reported its financial results for the third quarter and first nine months of 2021.

Significant items (all comparisons to third quarter of 2020):

- Net loss of \$6.7 million, or 22 cents per Class A share, compared to net income of \$11.8 million, or 41 cents per diluted Class A share
- Net premiums earned increased 6.1% to \$196.2 million
- Net premiums written<sup>1</sup> increased 9.0% to \$197.0 million
- Combined ratio of 107.7%, compared to 98.3%, largely due to elevated weather-related and fire loss activity
- Net loss included after-tax net investment losses of \$1.2 million, or 4 cents per Class A share, compared to after-tax net investment gains of \$2.6 million, or 9 cents per diluted Class A share
- Book value per share of \$17.21 at September 30, 2021, compared to \$16.96 at September 30, 2020

		Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Mon	mber 30,			
	2021		2021 2020 % Change			2021		2020	% Change	
				(dollars in	thousands, ex	cept	per share ar	nour	nts)	
Income Statement Data										
Net premiums earned	\$	196,235	\$	184,926	6.1%	\$	575,975	\$	556,552	3.5%
Investment income, net		7,764		7,403	4.9		22,926		21,952	4.4
Net investment (losses) gains		(1,570)		3,268	NM <sup>2</sup>		5,140		(940)	NM
Total revenues		203,106		196,512	3.4		606,222		580,323	4.5
Net (loss) income		(6,712)		11,837	NM		19,982		38,247	-47.8
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income <sup>1</sup>		(5,471)		9,255	NM		15,922		39,151	-59.3
Annualized return on average equity		-4.9%		9.5%	NM		5.0%		10.7%	-5.7 pts
Per Share Data										
Net (loss) income – Class A (diluted)	\$	(0.22)	\$	0.41	NM	\$	0.66	\$	1.33	-50.4%
Net (loss) income – Class B		(0.20)		0.37	NM		0.59		1.21	-51.2
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income – Class A										
(diluted)		(0.18)		0.32	NM		0.52		1.36	-61.8
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income – Class B		(0.16)		0.29	NM		0.47		1.24	-62.1
Book value		17.21		16.96	1.5%		17.21		16.96	1.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The "Definitions of Non-GAAP and Operating Measures" section of this release defines and reconciles data that we prepare on an accounting basis other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").

## **Management Commentary**

#### Overview

Kevin G. Burke, President and Chief Executive Officer of Donegal Group Inc., noted, "We achieved our premium growth objectives for the third quarter of 2021 due in part to excellent premium retention and commercial premium rate increases. However, our quarterly underwriting results were impacted by elevated weather-related, large fire and large workers' compensation losses. In addition, personal automobile loss frequency returned closer to historical averages, resulting in a higher third quarter of 2021 loss ratio compared to the prior-year quarter. Net favorable development of reserves for losses incurred in prior accident years continued in the third quarter of 2021, related primarily the lower-than-anticipated claim emergence in our personal and commercial automobile lines of business."

Growth Trends

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Not meaningful.

Mr. Burke continued, "Donegal Group achieved net premiums written growth of 9.0% during the third quarter of 2021, with a 17.6% increase in our commercial lines business segment compared to the prior-year quarter. In addition to new business growth, solid premium retention and renewal premium increases, the quarterly commercial growth reflected the inclusion of \$10.4 million of commercial premiums from four Southwestern states. In late August 2021, we successfully deployed the second major release within our ongoing systems modernization project. This release will facilitate the phased roll-out of new personal lines products in ten states over the next year. We expect the new products to begin generating an increase in personal lines new business premium writings in 2022."

# Underwriting Results

Jeffrey D. Miller, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, commented on the third quarter underwriting results, "Our insurance subsidiaries' combined ratio increased to 107.7% for the third quarter of 2021, compared to 98.3% for the prior-year quarter in which we experienced lower claim frequency due in large part to pandemic conditions. While weather-related losses were elevated for the third quarter of 2021, the loss ratio impact was consistent with our historical third-quarter average. As economic activity increased compared to the prior-year quarter, we incurred large fire losses that exceeded our historical quarterly average, including \$6.0 million from three individual losses that exceeded our per-risk reinsurance retention amount. We also experienced higher loss severity in our workers' compensation line of business, primarily due to a handful of unrelated severe injury claims. Our expense ratio for the third quarter of 2021 declined slightly compared to the prior-year quarter, due to lower underwriting-based incentive costs for our agents and employees that were partially offset by increased expenses related to our continuing investment in technology systems that we anticipate will benefit us over time."

# Book Value Appreciation

Mr. Burke concluded, "Our book value per share increased to \$17.21 at September 30, 2021, compared to \$17.13 at December 31, 2020, largely due to profitable year-to-date results that were largely offset by dividend payments and a decrease in unrealized gains within our available-for-sale fixed-maturity portfolio related to comparatively higher market interest rates at September 30, 2021."

# **Insurance Operations**

Donegal Group is an insurance holding company whose insurance subsidiaries and affiliates offer property and casualty lines of insurance in three Mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania), three New England states (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont), six Southern states (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia), eight Midwestern states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) and four Southwestern states (Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah). Donegal Mutual Insurance Company and the insurance subsidiaries of Donegal Group conduct business together as the Donegal Insurance Group.

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended Septemb			ember 30,		
		2021		2020	% Change		2021		2020	% Change
				_	(dollars in t	hous	sands)			
Net Premiums Earned										
Commercial lines	\$	119,709	\$	103,436	15.7%	\$	344,234	\$	307,080	12.1%
Personal lines		76,526		81,490	-6.1		231,741		249,472	-7.1
Total net premiums earned	\$	196,235	\$	184,926	6.1%	\$	575,975	\$	556,552	3.5%
Net Premiums Written										
Commercial lines:										
Automobile	\$	36,604	\$	31,172	17.4%	\$	126,417	\$	104,083	21.5%
Workers' compensation		26,265		25,467	3.1		89,773		86,329	4.0
Commercial multi-peril		43,869		34,220	28.2		143,584		112,461	27.7
Other		9,157		7,714	18.7		29,578		25,007	18.3
Total commercial lines		115,895		98,573	17.6		389,352		327,880	18.7
Personal lines:										
Automobile		44,711		46,794	-4.5		132,014		143,610	-8.1
Homeowners		30,978		30,716	0.9		84,035		85,975	-2.3
Other		5,431		4,697	15.6		17,081		15,255	12.0
Total personal lines		81,120		82,207	-1.3		233,130		244,840	-4.8
Total net premiums written	\$	197,015	\$	180,780	9.0%	\$	622,482	\$	572,720	8.7%

# Net Premiums Written

The 9.0% increase in net premiums written for the third quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarter of 2020, as shown in the table above, represents 17.6% growth in commercial lines net premiums written, partially offset by a 1.3% decline in personal lines net premiums written. The \$16.2 million increase in net premiums written for the third quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarter of 2020 included:

- Commercial Lines: \$17.3 million increase that we attribute primarily to the allocation from the
  Donegal Mutual underwriting pool of \$10.4 million of business Donegal Mutual and its
  subsidiaries wrote in four Southwestern states, new commercial accounts our insurance
  subsidiaries wrote throughout their operating regions and a continuation of renewal premium
  increases.
- Personal Lines: \$1.1 million decline that we attribute to net attrition as a result of underwriting
  measures our insurance subsidiaries implemented to slow new policy growth, partially offset
  by premium rate increases our insurance subsidiaries have implemented over the past four

# quarters.

## Underwriting Performance

We evaluate the performance of our commercial lines and personal lines segments primarily based upon the underwriting results of our insurance subsidiaries as determined under statutory accounting practices. The following table presents comparative details with respect to the GAAP and statutory combined ratios<sup>1</sup> for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2021 and 2020:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Septemb		
	2021	2020	2021	2020	
GAAP Combined Ratios (Total Lines)					
Loss ratio (non-weather)	66.3%	56.3%	59.8%	54.1%	
Loss ratio (weather-related)	9.2	9.1	6.4	7.6	
Expense ratio	31.5	31.9	33.9	33.2	
Dividend ratio	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.0	
Combined ratio	107.6%	98.3%	100.8%	95.9%	
Statutory Combined Ratios					
Commercial lines:					
Automobile	111.9%	109.9%	106.7%	110.5%	
Workers' compensation	109.0	86.8	96.0	85.9	
Commercial multi-peril	116.9	109.2	106.5	98.1	
Other	64.0	93.5	67.2	79.5	
Total commercial lines	109.4	102.4	101.1	97.3	
Personal lines:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Automobile	102.0	89.0	95.4	88.6	
Homeowners	117.5	97.7	107.4	99.3	
Other	65.4	84.0	72.2	76.5	
Total personal lines	105.2	91.9	98.2	91.6	
Total lines	107.7%	97.7%	100.0%	94.7%	

# Loss Ratio

For the third quarter of 2021, the loss ratio increased to 75.5%, compared to 65.4% for the third quarter of 2020. Weather-related losses of approximately \$18.0 million, or 9.2 percentage points of the loss ratio, for the third quarter of 2021, increased from \$16.9 million, or 9.1 percentage points of the loss ratio, for the third quarter of 2020. Weather-related losses from Tropical Storm Ida totaled \$2.2 million, with the remainder of the weather-related losses attributable primarily to typical severe summer storm activity. The impact of weather-related loss activity to the loss ratio for the third quarter of 2021 was generally in line with our previous five-year average of 9.0% for third quarter weather-related losses.

Large fire losses, which we define as individual fire losses in excess of \$50,000, for the third quarter of 2021 were \$12.7 million, or 6.5 percentage points of the loss ratio. That amount represented a significant increase compared to the large fire losses of \$3.9 million, or 2.1 percentage points of the loss ratio, for the third quarter of 2020 that we believe reflected lower economic activity related to pandemic conditions. The frequency and severity of commercial fire losses increased in the third quarter of 2021 relative to the prior-year quarter and historical averages.

Net favorable development of reserves for losses incurred in prior accident years of \$4.3 million decreased the loss ratio for the third quarter of 2021 by 2.2 percentage points. Net development of reserves for losses incurred in prior accident years did not have a material impact on the loss ratio for the third quarter of 2020. For the third quarter of 2021, our insurance subsidiaries experienced modest favorable development in their personal and commercial automobile lines of business.

The expense ratio was 31.5% for the third quarter of 2021, compared to 31.9% for the third quarter of 2020. Relative to the prior-year quarter, the modest decrease in the expense ratio reflected lower underwriting-based incentive costs for our agents and employees, offset partially by an increase in technology systems-related expenses. The increase in technology systems-related expenses was primarily due to an increased allocation of costs from Donegal Mutual Insurance Company to our insurance subsidiaries with respect to our ongoing systems modernization project.

## **Investment Operations**

Donegal Group's investment strategy is to generate an appropriate amount of after-tax income on its invested assets while minimizing credit risk through investment in high-quality securities. As a result, we had invested 94% of our consolidated investment portfolio in diversified, highly rated and marketable fixed-maturity securities at September 30, 2021.

	Se	September 30, 2021		er 31, 2020
	Amo	ount %	Amount	%
		(dollars ir	thousands)	
Fixed maturities, at carrying value:				
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S.				
government corporations and agencies	\$ 12	1,115 9.6%	6 \$ 125,250	10.3%
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	41	4,663 33.0	381,284	31.2
Corporate securities	40	5,929 32.3	385,978	31.6
Mortgage-backed securities	23	9,863 19.1	249,233	20.4
Total fixed maturities	1,18	1,570 94.0	1,141,745	93.5

Equity securities, at fair value Short-term investments, at cost	71,183 4.694	5.6 0.4	58,556 20.900	4.8 1.7
Total investments	\$ 1,257,447		\$ 1,221,201	100.0%
Average investment yield	2.5%		2.5%	
Average tax-equivalent investment yield	2.6%		2.7%	
Average fixed-maturity duration (years)	4.9		4.2	

Net investment income of \$7.8 million for the third quarter of 2021 increased 4.9% compared to \$7.4 million in net investment income for the third quarter of 2020. The increase in net investment income reflected primarily an increase in average invested assets relative to the prior-year third quarter.

Net investment losses were \$1.6 million for the third quarter of 2021, compared to net investment gains of \$3.3 million for the third quarter of 2020. Net investment gains and losses for both quarterly periods were primarily related to the net change in unrealized gains or losses in the fair value of equity securities held at the end of the respective periods.

# **Definitions of Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

We prepare our consolidated financial statements on the basis of GAAP. Our insurance subsidiaries also prepare financial statements based on statutory accounting principles state insurance regulators prescribe or permit ("SAP"). In addition to using GAAP-based performance measurements, we also utilize certain non-GAAP financial measures that we believe provide value in managing our business and for comparison to the financial results of our peers. These non-GAAP measures are net premiums written, operating income or loss and statutory combined ratio.

Net premiums written and operating income or loss are non-GAAP financial measures investors in insurance companies commonly use. We define net premiums written as the amount of full-term premiums our insurance subsidiaries record for policies effective within a given period less premiums our insurance subsidiaries cede to reinsurers. We define operating income or loss as net income or loss excluding after-tax net investment gains or losses, after-tax restructuring charges and other significant non-recurring items. Because our calculation of operating income or loss may differ from similar measures other companies use, investors should exercise caution when comparing our measure of operating income or loss to the measure of other companies.

The following table provides a reconciliation of net premiums earned to net premiums written for the periods indicated:

	Three Mo	nths	Ended Sept	tember 30,		Nine Mon	ths I	Ended Sept	ember 30,
	 2021		2020	% Change		2021		2020	% Change
			_	(dollars in t	hous	sands)			
Reconciliation of Net Premiums									
Earned to Net Premiums Written									
Net premiums earned	\$ 196,235	\$	184,926	6.1%	\$	575,975	\$	556,552	3.5%
Change in net unearned premiums	780		(4,146)	NM		46,507		16,168	187.6
Net premiums written	\$ 197,015	\$	180,780	9.0%	\$	622,482	\$	572,720	8.7%

The following table provides a reconciliation of net (loss) income to operating (loss) income for the periods indicated:

	 Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Mon	tember 30,			
	2021		2020	% Change		2021		2020	% Change
			(dollars i	n thousands, ex	cept	per share a	mou	nts)	
Reconciliation of Net (Loss) Income									
to Non-GAAP Operating (Loss) Income									
Net (loss) income	\$ (6,712)	\$	11,837	NM	\$	19,982	\$	38,247	-47.8%
Investment losses (gains) (after tax)	1,241		(2,582)	NM		(4,060)		743	NM
Other, net	-		-	-		-		161	-100.0
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income	\$ (5,471)	\$	9,255	NM	\$	15,922	\$	39,151	-59.3%
Per Share Reconciliation of Net (Loss) Income									
to Non-GAAP Operating (Loss) Income									
Net (loss) income – Class A (diluted)	\$ (0.22)	\$	0.41	NM	\$	0.66	\$	1.33	-50.4%
Investment losses (gains) (after tax)	0.04		(0.09)	NM		(0.14)		0.02	NM
Other, net	-		-	-		-		0.01	-100.0
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income – Class A	\$ (0.18)	\$	0.32	NM	\$	0.52	\$	1.36	-61.8%
Net (loss) income – Class B	\$ (0.20)	\$	0.37	NM	\$	0.59	\$	1.21	-51.2%
Investment losses (gains) (after tax)	0.04		(80.0)	NM		(0.12)		0.02	NM
Other, net	-		-	-		-		0.01	-100.0
Non-GAAP operating (loss) income – Class B	\$ (0.16)	\$	0.29	NM	\$	0.47	\$	1.24	-62.1%

The statutory combined ratio is a non-GAAP standard measurement of underwriting profitability that is based upon amounts determined under SAP. The statutory combined ratio is the sum of:

- the statutory loss ratio, which is the ratio of calendar-year incurred losses and loss expenses, excluding anticipated salvage and subrogation recoveries, to premiums earned;
- the statutory expense ratio, which is the ratio of expenses incurred for net commissions, premium taxes and underwriting expenses to premiums written; and
- the statutory dividend ratio, which is the ratio of dividends to holders of workers' compensation policies to premiums earned.

The statutory combined ratio does not reflect investment income, federal income taxes or other non-operating income or expense. A statutory combined ratio of less than 100% generally indicates underwriting profitability.

#### **Dividend Information**

On October 21, 2021, we declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.16 per share for our Class A common stock and \$0.1425 per share for our Class B common stock, which are payable on November 15, 2021 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on November 1, 2021.

#### **Conference Call and Webcast**

We will hold a conference call and webcast on Thursday, October 28, 2021, beginning at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Time. You may listen to the webcast of this conference call by accessing the webcast link on our website at <a href="http://investors.donegalgroup.com">http://investors.donegalgroup.com</a>. A supplemental investor presentation and a replay of the conference call will also be available via our website.

## About Donegal Group Inc.

Donegal Group Inc. is an insurance holding company whose insurance subsidiaries and affiliates offer property and casualty lines of insurance in certain Mid-Atlantic, Midwestern, New England, Southern and Southwestern states. Donegal Mutual Insurance Company and the insurance subsidiaries of Donegal Group Inc. conduct business together as the Donegal Insurance Group. The Donegal Insurance Group has an A.M. Best rating of A (Excellent).

The Class A common stock and Class B common stock of Donegal Group Inc. trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbols DGICA and DGICB, respectively. We are focused on several primary strategies, including achieving sustained excellent financial performance, strategically modernizing our operations and processes to transform our business, capitalizing on opportunities to grow profitably and delivering a superior experience to our agents and customers.

#### Safe Harbor

We base all statements contained in this release that are not historic facts on our current expectations. These statements are forward-looking in nature (as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995) and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results could vary materially. Factors that could cause actual results to vary materially include: our ability to attract new business, retain existing business and collect balances due to us as a result of the prolonged economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, adverse and catastrophic weather events, our ability to maintain profitable operations, the adequacy of the loss and loss expense reserves of our insurance subsidiaries, business and economic conditions in the areas in which our insurance subsidiaries operate, interest rates, the availability and cost of labor and materials, competition from various insurance and other financial businesses, terrorism, the availability and cost of reinsurance, legal and judicial developments including those related to COVID-19 business interruption coverage and exclusions, changes in regulatory requirements and other risks we describe in the periodic reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. We disclaim any obligation to update such statements or to announce publicly the results of any revisions that we may make to any forward-looking statements to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events or circumstances after the date of such statements.

## For Further Information:

Jeffrey D. Miller, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Phone: (717) 426-1931

E-mail: investors@donegalgroup.com

Adam Prior, Senior Vice President, The Equity Group Inc.

Phone: (212) 836-9606 E-mail: aprior@equityny.com

Donegal Group Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Income
(unaudited; in thousands, except share data)

	Quarter Ended September 30,					
	2021		2020			
Net premiums earned	\$ 196,235	\$	184,926			
Investment income, net of expenses	7,764		7,403			
Net investment (losses) gains	(1,570)		3,268			
Lease income	108		108			
Installment payment fees	 569		807			
Total revenues	 203,106		196,512			
Net losses and loss expenses	148,142		120,881			

Amortization of deferred acquisition costs Other underwriting expenses Policyholder dividends Interest Other expenses, net Total expenses		31,778 30,102 1,287 210 217 211,736		29,605 29,481 1,811 219 184 182,181
(Loss) income before income tax (benefit) expense Income tax (benefit) expense		(8,630) (1,918)		14,331 2,494
Net (loss) income	\$	(6,712)	\$	11,837
(Loss) earnings per common share: Class A - basic and diluted Class B - basic and diluted  Supplementary Financial Analysts' Data  Weighted-average number of shares	<u>\$</u> \$	(0.22)	\$ \$	0.41
outstanding: Class A - basic Class A - diluted Class B - basic and diluted		25,676,313 25,831,343 5,576,775		23,766,778 23,937,173 5,576,775
Net premiums written	\$	197,015	\$	180,780
Book value per common share at end of period	\$	17.21	\$	16.96

# Donegal Group Inc. Consolidated Statements of Income (unaudited; in thousands, except share data)

	Nine Months Ended Septen			
		2021		2020
Net premiums earned	\$	575,975	\$	556,552
Investment income, net of expenses		22,926		21,952
Net investment gains (losses)		5,140		(940)
Lease income		324		326
Installment payment fees	-	1,857		2,433
Total revenues		606,222		580,323
Net losses and loss expenses		381,319		343,477
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs		95,060		89,176
Other underwriting expenses		100,113		95,646
Policyholder dividends		4,211		5,337
Interest		739		871
Other expenses, net		962		993
Total expenses	-	582,404	-	535,500
Income before income tax expense		23,818		44,823
Income tax expense	-	3,836		6,576
Net income	\$	19,982	\$	38,247
Net income per common share:				
Class A - basic	\$	0.66	\$	1.34
Class A - diluted	\$	0.66	\$	1.33
Class B - basic and diluted	\$	0.59	\$	1.21

Supplementary Financial Analysts' Data

Weighted-average number of shares

outstanding:					
Class A - basic			25,265,448		23,493,674
Class A - diluted			25,443,911		23,679,262
Class B - basic and diluted		_	5,576,775		5,576,775
Net premiums written		\$	622,482	\$	572,720
Book value per common share					
at end of period		\$	17.21	\$	16.96
	Donegal Group Inc. Consolidated Balance Sheets (in thousands)				
			September 30, (unaudited)		December 31,
	ASSETS				
Investments:					
Fixed maturities:					
Held to maturity, at amortized cost		\$	661,080	\$	586,609
Available for sale, at fair value			520,491		555,136
Equity securities, at fair value			71,183		58,556
Short-term investments, at cost			4,694		20,900
Total investments			1,257,448		1,221,201
Cash			68,904		103,094
Premiums receivable			181,545		169,596
Reinsurance receivable			456,651		408,909
Deferred policy acquisition costs			70,397		59,157
Prepaid reinsurance premiums			184,354		169,418
Other assets		_	32,716	_	29,145
Total assets		\$	2,252,015	\$	2,160,520
Liabilities:	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EC	UITY			
Losses and loss expenses		\$	1,050,163	\$	962,007
Unearned premiums		Ψ	598,632	Ψ	537,190
Accrued expenses			10,347		29,115
Borrowings under lines of credit			35,000		85,000
Subordinated debentures			-		5,000
Other liabilities			19,740		24,434
Total liabilities			1,713,882		1,642,746
Stockholders' equity:			.,,		.,,
Class A common stock			287		277
Class B common stock			56		56
Additional paid-in capital			303,844		289,150
Accumulated other comprehensive income			6,825		11,131
Retained earnings			268,347		258,386
Treasury stock			(41,226)		(41,226)
Total stockholders' equity			538 133		517 774

538,133

2,252,015 \$

517,774

2,160,520

Source: Donegal Group, Inc.

Total stockholders' equity

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity