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## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT ATTENDS INAUGURAL HEALTH UNDERWRITERS MEETING

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**SYRACUSE-** On October 18th, the Superintendent of the New York State Insurance Department, Howard Mills, was presented with a plaque on behalf of the Greater Central New York Association of Health Underwriters. The plaque was presented to Mills by GCNYAHU President Mr. Ross Kraft and President-Elect Mr. Andy Biernat, as a sign of their appreciation for his support in speaking to their newly established association.

The regional chapter has held two membership meetings thus far, and they will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10am, Justin's Grill off Carrier Circle in Syracuse. The topic of Howard Mills' discussion was *The trends and landscape of healthcare today and in the future*. He also talked about his views on how to effect positive change in healthcare in New York State, and his message was received by almost 50 area insurance professionals.

As a former state legislator, Mills was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1998, and was twice re-elected. During his tenure in the assembly, Mills served as the deputy minority leader, and sat on the Banking, Housing, Insurance, and Ways and Means committees. He was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in 2004. A major in the New York Guard, 56th Brigade, Mills was called to active duty in the wake of September 11, 2001, and was later awarded the New York State Defense of Liberty medal. A graduate of Marist College, Poughkeepsie, Mills earned a master's degree in government and public affairs from The American University, Washington, D.C.

The Greater Central New York Association of Health Underwriters is a local chapter of the National Association of Health Underwriters and was recently established to assist the region's health insurance agents and brokers as they guide employers and consumers through the complexities of the health care system. The vision of GCNYAHU is that *every* American will have access to private sector solutions for health, financial and retirement security and the services of insurance professionals.