

# Fireworks have a colorful history

Independence Day celebrations are marked by many spectacles. But few can garner the “oohs and aahs” of a good fireworks display.



Fireworks, which can be traced back thousands of years, have an interesting history. Many historians believe fireworks originated in ancient China as early as 200 B.C. It is thought that early fireworks were not the gunpowder-filled explosives of today, but something made from bamboo, a material native to China. Chunks of bamboo, a thick, fast-growing grass, may have been tossed onto a fire as fuel. The rods would blacken, but eventually explode in the fire, causing a loud, frightening noise. This noise was a result of trapped air and sap inside of the bamboo rods heating and expanding until the bamboo exploded under the pressure. The exploding bamboo was used to ward off animals, other people and evil spirits.

Chinese alchemists eventually stumbled on a recipe for basic gunpowder, mixing together saltpeter (potassium nitrate, then a common kitchen seasoning), charcoal, sulfur, and other ingredients. This powder was packed inside of hollow bamboo rods to produce an even bigger bang. Soon paper tubes replaced the bamboo, and fireworks were used for more than just scaring away spirits, as they were routinely included in special celebrations and even deployed during military engagements.

Fireworks may have begun in China, but they were soon being used around the world. Italians had been fascinated with fireworks ever since the explorer Marco Polo brought back firecrackers from Asia in 1292. During the Renaissance in Europe, the Italians began

to develop fireworks into a true art form. Since this was a period of artistic creativity and expression, many new fireworks were created.

“Firemasters” were fireworks experts in medieval England. They worked with “green men,” who wore caps of leaves to protect themselves from raining sparks from the fireworks.

In 1758, the Jesuit missionary Pierre Nicolas le Cheron d’Incarville, living in Beijing, wrote to the Paris Academy of Sciences about the methods and composition of fireworks, including how to make many types of Chinese fireworks.

The world remains fascinated by fireworks even now. Fireworks displays have grown more elaborate over the years, requiring the skills of pyrotechnic experts, carpenters and digital sound masters. Various powders and chemicals mixed together produce a rainbow display of colors and aerial tricks that would likely have shocked the earliest firework creators.

Not forgetting its origins, China continues to produce and export more fireworks than any other country in the world. Safety experts recommend the public leave fireworks to the professionals and sit back and relax during awe-inspiring pyrotechnic displays.

*-metrocreativeconnection*

## Minnewaukan RFPD mtg. dates

The Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the new fire hall in Minnewaukan. Meeting dates for 2026 are July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Times and dates are subject to change.

## Esmond Museum information

Anyone seeking information about the Esmond Museum is welcome to contact Loren Preuss at 1-701-249-3566.

37907	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Allstate Vehicle And Property Insurance Company	
In the state of IL	
Total Assets	96,417,147
Total Liabilities	46,561,301
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,375,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	45,742,676
Unassigned funds (surplus)	-261,830
Total Capital & Surplus	49,855,846
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	96,417,147
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums	0
Earned	0
Total Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	0
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE	
I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.	
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).	
<b>JON GODFREAD</b> Commissioner of Insurance	
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY	
WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and	
WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid,	
NOW THEREFORE, I, <b>JON GODFREAD</b> , Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.	
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<b>JON GODFREAD</b> Commissioner of Insurance (Publish June 18 & 25 & July 2, 2026)	

27928	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Amex Assurance Company	
In the state of IL	
Total Assets	189,612,619
Total Liabilities	69,142,234
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,597,875
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	111,712,628
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	50,266,845
Total Capital & Surplus	166,577,348
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	235,719,582
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums	98,063
Earned	98,063
Total Direct Losses	18,505
Incurred	18,505
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	18,517
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	-2,798
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE	
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<b>JON GODFREAD</b> Commissioner of Insurance (Publish June 18 & 25 & July 2, 2026)	

16070	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Cronus Insurance Company	
In the state of Texas	
Total Assets	67,917,342
Total Liabilities	13,907,992
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	5,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	15,000,000
Unassigned funds (surplus)	34,009,350
Total Capital & Surplus	54,009,350
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	67,917,342
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums	571,891
Earned	571,891
Total Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	0
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<b>JON GODFREAD</b> Commissioner of Insurance (Publish June 18 & 25 & July 2, 2026)	

28649	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Eastern Atlantic Insurance Company	
In the state of PA	
Total Assets	105,795,701
Total Liabilities	55,295,116
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,155,552
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	10,519,432
Unassigned funds (surplus)	35,825,603
Total Capital & Surplus	50,500,587
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	105,795,703
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums	132,755
Earned	132,755
Total Direct Losses	94,057
Incurred	94,057
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	0
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<b>JON GODFREAD</b> Commissioner of Insurance (Publish June 18 & 25 & July 2, 2026)	

99775	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company	
In the state of Texas	
Total Assets	2,695,371,260
Total Liabilities	2,682,261,447
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	2,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	3,031,000
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	193,078,234
Total Capital & Surplus	198,609,234
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	2,682,261,447
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life & Annuity Premiums Written	6,636,205
Total Life & Annuity Direct Losses Paid	2,219,728
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Written	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Paid	0
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35769	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Protective Property & Casualty Insurance Company	
In the state of Missouri	
Total Assets	465,018,526
Total Liabilities	247,148,171
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	81,942,999
Unassigned funds (surplus)	131,927,356
Total Capital & Surplus	217,870,355
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	465,018,526
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums	34,225
Earned	34,225
Total Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	0
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79227	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Pruco Life Insurance Company	
In the state of AZ	
Total Assets	216,273,657,699
Total Liabilities	210,452,207,322
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	189,569,023
Common Capital Stock	2,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	5,218,910,533
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	410,470,821
Total Capital & Surplus	5,821,450,377
Total Liabilities, Cap. & Surplus	216,273,657,699
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life & Annuity Premiums Written	39,765,134
Total Life & Annuity Direct Losses Paid	54,172,000
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Written	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Paid	0
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68241	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
Prudential Insurance Company Of America	
In the state of NJ	
Total Assets	325,813,063,405
Total Liabilities	309,903,780,159
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	1,411,367,207
Common Capital Stock	2,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	287,000,000
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	10,426,206,021
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	3,782,210,018
Total Capital & Surplus	15,909,283,246
Total Liabilities, Cap. & Surplus	325,813,063,405
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life & Annuity Premiums Written	31,741,051
Total Life & Annuity Direct Losses Paid	47,029,500
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Written	6,275,646
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Paid	1,951,993
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97179	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the	
UnitedHealthcare Life Insurance Company	
In the state of Wisconsin	
Total Assets	156,904,161
Total Liabilities	52,049,637
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	6,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	180,332,982
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	-81,478,458
Total Capital & Surplus	104,854,524
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	156,904,161
NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life & Annuity Premiums Written	0
Total Life & Annuity Direct Losses Paid	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Written	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Paid	0
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