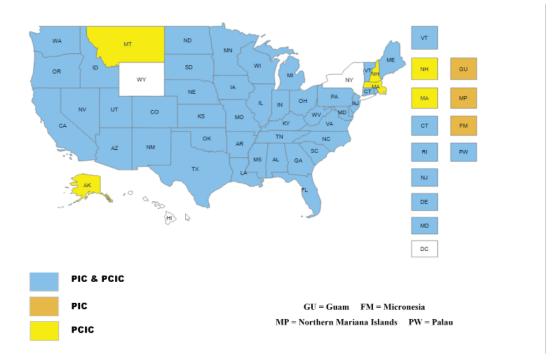


The Plateau Group 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

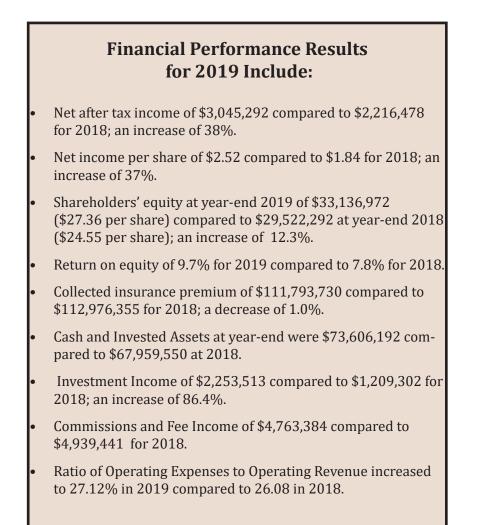
COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1981 in Crossville, Tennessee, The Plateau Group, Inc. is an underwriter of payment protection products and a distributor of related financial products and services throughout the United States and South Pacific Islands. Plateau serves clients in the banking, consumer finance, automotive, credit union and retail industries. The company is considered one of the premier providers of products and services to financial institutions. Plateau also holds a national reputation as a provider of reinsurance and reinsurance accounting.

AUTHORIZED STATES



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



NOTE: Total revenues, cash and invested assets and investment income used in this presentation may not coincide with the

enclosed balance sheet and income statement because certain components are reclassified for GAAP presentation. The numbers discussed in the Letter to Shareholders and in the Analysis of Premium Section are used consistently for planning and comparison.

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LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS



Dick Williams President

During 2019, our 38th year, we strengthened our balance sheet by virtually eliminating our bank debt and increasing our cash and invested assets while continuing to invest in our core business. We remained focused on attracting new business while retaining the business we have. With our progress in 2019, we entered 2020 with strong momentum and good reasons for optimism.

We, like everyone else, did not foresee the devasting effects of **COVID-19** to the world and to our economy. It locked down businesses everywhere during the first quarter of 2020, eliminating millions of jobs and payroll incomes. Nearly all of our products are dependent on the productivity of the ultimate consumers and their ability to earn income. Plateau is fortunate to have achieved results over the past thirty-eight years that built our equity to the level it is today. We have a broad base of clients who will continue to produce business for us when this pandemic is behind us. We will move forward in 2020. We will make our absolute best effort to maintain our staff. Given the unknown as to the negative impact of the COVID-19 virus, I will move on and report on the activities and results of 2019.

Plateau earned a record \$3,045,292 during 2019 compared to \$2,216,478 in 2018; a 38% increase. These earnings, along with equity adjustments resulting from a new GAAP rule imposed in 2019, increased shareholders' equity to \$33,136,972. This increase of \$3,614,680, set another record. Our annualized return on equity was 9.7%.

Beginning with revenue items, our reported insurance premiums for both underwriting companies, Plateau Insurance Company (PIC) and Plateau Casualty Insurance Company (PCIC), were \$111,793,730 in 2019 compared to \$112,976,355 for 2018; a decrease of \$1,182,625. One of our third-party administrators began offering our extended service contracts during mid-2018 in multiple states. Four of those states require the administrator to be licensed as an administrator in order to be an obligor, or, in the case of Florida, to offer the products through a licensed motor vehicle service agreement company. To begin writing during 2018, the administrator issued "insurer obligor" contracts of PCIC reporting premium at the customer pay amount until the administrator obtained proper licenses in those states. In 2018 the reported premium at the customer pay amount for those states was \$5 million. After the proper licenses were obtained, the extended service contracts could then be issued as "dollar one" or "failure to perform" contracts at a significantly lower reported premium. If this approach had been used in 2018 the reported premium would have been \$4.5 million less for that administrator. For a more meaningful year to year comparison, the reported premium for 2018 would have been \$3.5 million less than the reported premium for 2019 for PCIC. Our risk exposure and our margin would have been the same on those products either way they were issued.

PCIC's reported premium production for 2019 was \$61.8 million compared to reported premium of \$64.3 million in 2018; a decline of \$2.5 million. This decline is a result of the change mentioned above. The entire comparison of this \$4.5 million swing was absorbed at PCIC.

PIC's reported premium for 2019 was \$48.8 million compared \$48.7 million in 2018. Premiums by market segment and the changes for 2019 are illustrated in the chart on the next page. Underwriting income is the contribution to income from the earned premiums and was \$11.7 million in 2019 compared to \$11.1 million in 2018.

PCIC offers eighteen underwritten products and each contributed a positive underwriting gain. PIC offers thirteen products and all but one of those contributed underwriting gains. The one product that experienced a loss was a negative twelve thousand dollars. Our second largest contributor to revenue is **commission and fee income**. We recognize fee income on some of our underwritten products, primarily extended service contracts and debt protection products. For these products, this income is in addition to any underwriting gain or loss and these fees contribute to the overhead involved in administering the business. Commission income is recognized when we broker products offered by other insurance companies or business partners for the markets we serve and where we have business relationships they do not have. Revenue from these sources for 2019 was \$4.8 million, virtually flat compared to \$4.9 million for 2018.

Our third major source of income is the **investment income** we generate from investing our equity and insurance reserves in marketable security instruments. Our cash and invested assets at year-end 2019 were \$73.6 million; up from \$68 million at year-end 2018. Investment income generated by these investments for 2019 was \$2.2 million; up from \$1.2 million in 2018. an increase of 86.4%. The major contributor to that increase was the receipt of dividends from a reinsurance company we acquired in a business transaction seven years ago where the business finally earned out. More than ninety-five percent of our portfolio is invested in fixed income government bonds and short-term certificates of deposit. As a result of the increase in dividends, our average yield for 2019 was 3.1% compared to 1.8% for 2018.

Compliance requirements and technology investments have certainly put upward pressure on Plateau's expenses over the past few years. Commercial banks are required by their regulators to perform due diligence on their critical vendors. We fit that category. The larger banks are required to perform on-site reviews, not only reviewing the security of our data, but also the security of our facilities. We are also required to have an outside data security firm perform testing and provide us with a written annual report of finding, referred to as a "SOC 2, Type II", which we then provide to our customers. The system we have operated since inception for PSC was homegrown and did not have the flexibility we wanted and needed. We were faced with the choice of updating our existing system or outsourcing to one which has the flexibility we need. During 2019, after reviewing various systems in the market, we made the decision to implement a new software system for our extended service contracts and GAP waivers. We are working to implement the new system during the first quarter of 2020 and hope to have it completed in mid-2020. The cost of these compliance and technology investments is significant.

Your first choice

Absorbing these expenses, our ratio of operating expenses to operating revenue for 2019 was 27.12%, compared to 26.08% in 2018. The 2019 ratio also includes some one-time unusual expenses, including a spike in legal fees defending lawsuits, a lawsuit settlement, and an unusual bad debt write-off in 2019. If these one-time expenses are taken out of the expense numerator, our ratio for 2019 is reduced to 26.07%. The rationale for this adjustment is that our expense ratio is unchanged when comparing normal operating expenses. Our stated goal for this ratio is to achieve 25%. The expense component includes all general overhead, interest expense, and depreciation, but does not include commissions paid, claims or premium taxes as they have been deducted in the calculation of our underwriting margin. The revenue component includes our underwriting margin and commission and fee income but does not include investment income.

For the new software system referenced above, Plateau is partnering with PCMI Corporation, a leading provider of integrated software for Warranty and Service Contract management and F&I administration. PCMI's Policy Claim and Reporting Solutions[™](PCRS) software will support all of Plateau's automotive aftermarket products and allow us to provide a streamlined dealer experience. PCRS's Open Sales Platform provides real-time rating and contracting via "70+ eMenu" and DMS systems. This will allow the F&I team to present products to customers through their "point of sales" channel and issue policies using electronic signatures. Claims administration will be faster and easier with more methods of payments available. Additionally, monthly reporting to the dealership and dealer principals will be available online for review for all policies, claims, and reinsurance needs.

PREMIUM BY MARKET SEGMENT 2018=-2019 2019 2018 <u>2019</u> Change % of Total Source Consumer Finance Co. \$ 41,508,013 \$ 39,732,827 \$ (1,775,186) 35.5% Commercial Banks Ś 29.775.747 \$ 31,402,073 \$ 1,626,326 28 1% Automobile Dealers 23,265,454 \$ 20,179,975 \$ (3,085,479) 18.1% s Credit Unions \$ 14,544,849 \$ 15,613,476 \$ 1,068,627 14.0% Other Sales Finance <u>4.3</u>% 3,882,292 \$ 4,865,379 \$ 983,087 Totals \$ 112,976,355 \$ 111,793,730 \$ (1,182,625) 100.0%

As reported in last year's Annual Report, several of our clients and potential clients had a need to produce our extended service contracts in Florida. Plateau formed a **new subsidiary** in Tennessee, Plateau Warranty Company (PWC), and obtained the necessary Florida license as a Chapter 634 "motor vehicle service agreement company". We received our license at year-end 2018 but produced no business in 2018. During 2019 PWC produced \$1.2 million in premium. Also, during 2019, we expanded PWC's authority to include a license as a "service warranty association" so we could expand our offerings to include various consumer goods. In addition to the current producers we now have, we have several prospective producers of these products in Florida.

During 2019, PCIC expanded its certificates of authority (CofA) by adding New Hampshire, bringing its total to forty-seven states. PIC now holds CofA's in forty-three states. The number of CofA's and maintaining an A- rating with A.M. Best has attracted many prospects to pursue business opportunities with Plateau. Entering the first quarter of 2020, Plateau has contracted with, and has new commitments with, clients that we expect will generate more than \$5 million in premium for 2020. As that business matures and contributes a full twelve-month production, the annual premium is expected to be approximately \$15 million. In addition, our marketing efforts include the offering of non-insurance and brokered products, including checking account enhancements by Econ-O-Check Corporation, flood zone determinations by ServiceLink, collateral protection, debt protection, title insurance, and ancillary products for automobile dealers.

In 2020, we will continue to focus on driving attractive returns for our shareholders by building our core business, providing the "best in our business" customer service and by using our technology tools and the data they provide to improve the profitability of the business. We will continue to control costs while investing in talent, systems, and products that enhance profitability. In short, we will continue to control what we can control in a year in which we expect the operating environment to be **the most challenging we have ever experienced**.

Reed Gass, Chief Marketing Officer, will retire at the end of April. Reed joined the Plateau Group nine years ago, in 2011. We both have said we should have become business partners years before that. Plateau Insurance Company was licensed in 10 states at that time. When Reed joined Plateau, his former employer asked him if he thought Plateau would like to take over its existing business. We had a phone discussion and agreed to do just that. They had business in 45 states. We had to scramble to get the needed additional licenses. By doing so we picked up \$15 million in premium and now hold 43 licenses. Reed's relationships across the country helped Plateau to grow its premium volume as we gained this additional business. He has been a great fit and team member with our entire staff. After forty-five years in this business, we wish him a fun and adventurous retirement.

The credit for the ongoing transformation and success of our company goes to **our people** – our most important asset. They execute our strategy; they win business. Their hard work and dedication have brought us this far and will keep us moving ahead. We have built a strong corporate culture to attract the best people and support them. I am proud to work with such talented, dedicated professionals, and I thank them for all they do for Plateau.

I personally wish to thank Plateau's **Board of Directors and our Executive Committee members**. This group of directors has an enormous amount of financial knowledge and industry experience which has been invaluable to Plateau.

"Thank you" to our corporate customers for trusting us with their business. Our products provide a value to their customers. We hope we make their experience a positive and rewarding one.

"Thank you" to all our shareholders for your confidence in Plateau. We will continue to work to justify your trust.

Sincerely,

Dut Willin

Dick Williams President/CEO

MARKETING/SALES DEVELOPMENT



Reed Gass Chief Marketing Officer



Thom Hagan, Sr. VP Middle Tennessee



David Greene, Sr. VP West Tennessee



Cameron Rogers East Tennessee



Doyle Kelly Southeast



Greg Janssen Indiana



Bob Joyce, VP Northeast



Dave Karr, VP Financial Institutions



Andrea Bower Midwest



Tony Snow Indiana



Melody Williams, PhD Director of Training



Bill Elliott, VP Client Management



John Kelly Southeast Agent



Michael Boozer South Carolina Agent

MANAGEMENT



David Hardegree, CPA Chief Financial Officer Executive Vice President



Euretha Roberts Sr. Vice President Operations



Mike Graham Sr. Vice President Reinsurance Accounting



Eric Shaver Sr. Vice President Information Technology



Michael Ramsey, CPA Vice President Treasurer



Skip Davis Sr. Vice President Products/Marketing



Steve Douglas Vice President General Counsel



Elaine Pelletier, FSA, MAAA Sr. Vice President Actuary



Sharon Tabor, Vice President Property & Casualty



Shelia Newberry Vice President Title Insurance



Sandy Whitson Vice President Premium Processing



Doris Davis Vice President Credit Claims



Judy Hicks Vice President Accounting



Terri Hammons Vice President Agent Services



Sissie Turner Vice President Group Mortgage/MOB



Deedy Adams Vice President Compliance



Joy Whited Vice President Underwriting

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

THE PLATEAU GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(Unaudited)

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		As of D	ecen	iber 31,
		2019		2018
Assets				
Debt securities	\$	49,608,151	S	46,478,822
Equity securities		2,295,686		1,233,047
Cash and cash equivalents		17,157,575		15,875,470
Certificates of deposit		2,377,251		2,376,237
Notes Receivable		1,365,000		1,447,779
Investment in reinsurance companies		295,600		295,600
Investment in limited partnership		506,929		241,377
Other invested assets		-		11,218
Total cash and invested assets		73,606,192		67,959,550
Accrued interest and dividends		293,242		306,975
Accounts receivable		5,385,905		4,556,651
Reinsurance recoverable		6,089,587		5,738,649
Prepaid reinsurance premium		64,831,027		63,915,677
Deferred policy acquisition cost		17,633,378		19,653,417
Goodwill		279,562		279,562
Intangible assets		2,169,935		2,581,133
Office property and equipment		3,172,313		3,728,757
Income tax recoverable		-		735,086
Other assets		2,727,986		2,160,712
Total Assets	\$	176,189,127	\$	171,616,169
			-	
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity				
Liabilities:				
Reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$	13,110,125	\$	13,300,620
Unearned premium		110,690,441		112,511,737
Reinsurance payable		4,253,084		3,933,602
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		11,970,564		8,263,364
Net deferred tax liability		592,019		721,810
Notes payable		2,435,922	_	3,362,744
Total Liabilities		143,052,155		142,093,877
			_	
Shareholders' Equity :				
Common stock - \$1 par value, 2,000,000 shares authorized,				
1,211,019 in 2019 and 1,202,509 in 2018 issued and outstanding		1,211,019		1,202,509
Additional paid-in capital		6,123,995		5,930,617
Retained earnings		25,614,972		23,338,790
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		186,986	_	(949,624)
Total Shareholders' Equity		33,136,972	-	29,522,292
			-	
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	S	176,189,127	\$	171,616,169
			-	



THE PLATEAU GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES Years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

(Unaudited)

		Years end	ed Dece	mber 31,
		2019		2018
Operating Revenues				
Premium earned	\$	44,976,898	\$	45,071,597
Ceding fees on premium reinsured		5,082,921		4,904,674
Net commission income		1,746,220		1,820,006
Otherincome	_	3,023,136		3,119,435
Total operating revenues	-	54,829,175	_	54,915,712
Losses and Expenses				
Death benefits		4,142,426		4,848,206
Accident and health benefits		2,399,786		2,389,601
Losses and loss adjustment expenses		10,337,285		11,158,499
Other underwriting expenses incurred		36,352,444		34,829,350
Total losses and expenses	-	53,231,941	-	53,225,656
-	-		_	
Operating gain before investment activity		1,597,234		1,690,056
Interest, dividends and net realized losses		2,059,026		1,209,302
Net unrealized gain on equity securities		194,487		-
Net investment income earned	-	2,253,513	-	1,209,302
	-		_	
Income before income tax expense		3,850,747		2,899,358
Income tax expense	-	805,455	_	682,880
Net income		3,045,292		2,216,478
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:				
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during period, net of tax		066 695		(570.200)
(expense) benefit of \$(256,966) and \$154,015, respectively		966,685		(579,388)
Reclassification adjustment for losses realized in net income,		4 750		0.002
net of tax benefit of \$1,263 and \$2,606, respectively	-	4,750	-	9,803
Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax	-	971,435	-	(569,585)
Total comprehensive income	\$	4,016,727	\$	1,646,893

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THE PLATEAU GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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PLATEAU ASSOCIATES



April Fagan, AVP Credit Claims



Kimberly Vincent Credit Claims



Victoria Stepp Credit Claims



Jessie Walker Credit Claims



Pamela Jones Credit Claims



Mollie Smith Credit Claims



Renee Holbrook Credit Claims



Erin Young, AVP Credit Operations



Jo Reagan Credit Operations



Tonya Iles Credit Operations



Brandy Flynn Credit Operations



Sarah Rary Credit Operations



Joshua VanWinkle Credit Operations



Tasha Higdon Credit Operations



Tiffany Thompson Credit Operations



Cassie Iles Credit Operations



Leanne Landers Credit Operations



Bre Weidner Credit Operations



Shannon Graham Credit Operations

Sandra Bradberry

Underwriting



Jackie Wilbanks Group Mortgage/MOB



Becky Johnston Underwriting



Shaina Hardy Group Mortgage/MOB



Meredith Mullen Underwriting



Kelley Miller Group Mortgage/MOB



Dana Redwine Underwriting



Melissa Dyer Title Services



Brandy Adkins Underwriting



1

PLATEAU ASSOCIATES



Keli Smith, AVP Agent Services



Margaret Mullinax Agent Services



Amanda Dyer Agent Services



Andrew Eller Agent Services



Jessica Hawn Licensing



Megan Sherrill Licensing



Mary Franc Graham Atty/Compliance



James Hall Compliance



Alexis Deibler Compliance



Beverly Jolly Compliance



Martha Lindsay Vendor Management



Daniel Carey Information Technology



JoAnn Ramsey Information Technology



Troy Bolen Information Technology



Skye Pearson



Greg Baughman



Julie Howard Information Technology Information Technology Information Technology



Eric Mooneyham Information Technology



LeeAnn Roberts, AVP P&C/Auto



Eric Shaver II Information Technology Security Officer



Whitney Henry P&C/Auto



Brandi Wyatt P&C/Auto Claims



Cindy Guerin-Couch P&C/Auto Claims



Cammie Elmore P&C/Consumer

PLATEAU ASSOCIATES



Vicki Mason General Services



Vicki Carlson General Services



Stephanie Carey General Services



Brett Suggs General Services



Glenna Jackson General Services



Scarlett Sapp-Holmes Accounting



Tracy Graham, AVP Accounting



Margaret Smith Accounting



Lynette Durant Accounting



Christy Reed Accounting



Michele Standefer Accounting



Johnnie Whittenburg Reinsurance



Kaye Barnett Reinsurance



Hannah VanWinkle Reinsurance



Crystal Davidson Reinsurance



Nick Donathan Reinsurance

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Steve Miller, Chairman The Plateau Group, Inc. Crossville, TN



Dick Williams, President The Plateau Group, Inc. Crossville, TN



John Barker, CEO Citizens Tri-County Bank Dunlap, TN



John Bruno Brentwood, TN



Wib Evans, President First Bank Ventures Lexington, TN



John Haile Cleveland, TN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Barnes, President Bank of Frankewing Frankewing, TN

Bill Bates, CEO Bank of Perry County Lobelville, TN

Craig Fitzhugh, Chairman, CEO Bank of Ripley Ripley, TN Randy Graham, President, CEO First National Bank of Tennessee Livingston, TN

David Hardegree, CFO The Plateau Group, Inc. Crossville, TN 38555

Mark Hayes, Chairman, CEO First National Bank Pulaski, TN Wright Hickerson, III, Director FCB Corporation Manchester, TN

Andy Nash, EVP The Farmers Bank Portland, TN

Chad Wilson, President Foundation Bank/McKenzie Banking Co. Jackson, TN

ASSOCIATES BY DEPARTMENT

Corporate

Dick Williams David Hardegree, CPA Euretha Roberts Mike Graham Eric Shaver Skip Davis Elaine Pelletier, FSA, MAAA Steven Douglas, ATTY Bill Elliott

Marketing Staff

Reed Gass Thom Hagan David Greene Cameron Rogers Doyle Kelly Bob Joyce Greg Janssen Tony Snow Andrea Bower Dave Karr Melody Williams, PhD, Trainer

Marketing Agents

Jim Smartt Donna Brown Michael Boozer John Kelly

Information Technology

Eric Shaver JoAnn Ramsey Daniel Carey Troy Bolen Eric Shaver II Skye Pearson Greg Baughman Julie Howard Eric Mooneyham

Group Mortgage/MOB

Sissie Turner Jackie Wilbanks Shaina Hardy Kelley Miller

Agent Services

Terri Hammons Keli Smith Margaret Mullinax Amanda Dyer Andrew Eller Jessica Hawn Megan Sherrill Traci Garrett

General Services

Vicki Mason Vicki Carlson Stephanie Carey Brett Suggs Craig Wyatt Jewell Selby Glenna Jackson

Corporate Accounting

Michael Ramsey, CPA Judy Hicks Margaret Smith Tracy Graham Christy Reed Lynette Durant Scarlet Sapp Michele Standefer

Reinsurance Accounting

Mike Graham Johnnie Whittenburg Kaye Barnett Hannah VanWinkle Crystal Davidson Nick Donathan

<u>P & C</u>

Sharon Tabor, Property Claims Kim Long, Property Claims

Auto/Warranty

LeeAnn Roberts, Auto Whitney Henry, Auto Brandi Wyatt, Auto Claims Cindy Guerin-Couch, Auto Claims Nick Bovee, Auto Claims Cammie Elmore, Consumer Warranties

Compliance

Deedy Adams Beverly Jolly Alexis Deibler Mary Franc Graham, ATTY James Hall Martha Lindsay, Vendor Mgmt.

Title Insurance

Shelia Newberry Melissa Dyer

Underwriting

Joy Whited Sandra Bradberry Becky Johnston Meredith Mullen Dana Redwine Brandy Adkins

Credit Operations

Sandy Whitson Erin Young Jo Reagan Joshua VanWinkle Tasha Higdon Tonya Iles Bre Weidner Sarah Rary Tiffany Thompson Brandy Flynn Cassie Iles Leanne Landers Shannon Graham Henri Calahan

Credit Claims

Doris Davis April Fagan Kimberly Vincent Victoria Houston Jessie Walker Renee Holbrook Pamela Jones Mollie Smith Earlene Armes

PLATEAU CUSTOMERS



PLATEAU CORPORATE OFFICE



Crossville, Tennessee

The Plateau Group

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