



VFIS of Southern New England Merges into Gowrie Group

Westbrook, Connecticut
January 31, 2012

Gowrie Group, Connecticut's largest and most prestigious independent insurance agency is excited to announce that we have joined forces with VFIS of Southern New England. VFIS/SNE is a regional insurance firm focusing on select client groups including public safety organizations, nonprofits, municipalities, and others niches. Through this new relationship, VFIS of Southern New England is now a member of Gowrie Group.

Synergies between the two companies will enable both to better serve their clients through an expanded menu of insurance solutions, additional human and physical resources, and ongoing growth opportunities

VFIS/SNE and Gowrie Group share a client-centered approach and pride themselves on:

- Service excellence and professionalism
- Niche industry expertise and deep insurance knowledge
- Creating and delivering specialized insurance programs
- Ability to work directly with clients and with clients' brokers
- A history of outstanding client satisfaction and retention

Brad Preston, Senior Vice-President of Gowrie Group said: *"I look forward to opportunities to better serve our current and future clients through the resources and expanded offerings we will have access to through our new relationship with Gowrie Group."*

"The hallmark of both organizations is deep affinity within niches, and outstanding customer service. This combination makes us a stronger organization for our clients and insurance partners alike," said Ed Gumbrecht, President of Gowrie Group.

VFIS of Southern New England will continue to be managed by Brad Preston and serve its clients out of its new Rhode Island office in North Kingston, RI. In addition to his management of VFIS/SNE, Brad is now also a Partner at Gowrie Group.

Gowrie Group provides insurance, benefits, and financial services to individuals and businesses throughout the US, and specializes in customized marine, business, home, auto, and boat insurance products and services. Gowrie Group is the largest independent marine insurance group in the US and is ranked in the top 75 independent insurance agencies in the US. Gowrie is endorsed by US SAILING, the national governing body for the sport of sailing. Gowrie's 120+ dedicated professionals are primarily located in the company's main offices in Westbrook CT, Darien CT, and Newport RI. For more information about Gowrie Group visit www.gowrie.com or call 800.262.8911.

VFIS of Southern New England is a regional insurance agency focusing on a select client groups, including municipalities, public safety organizations, nonprofits, and others niche groups. The company was formed in 1997 and provides insurance and benefits programs directly to clients and through brokers across New England. VFIS of Southern New England is a member of Gowrie Group. Learn more at www.vfissne.com, 888.834.7763, www.gowrie.com