

Board of Directors



Craig A. Lang, Chairman of the Board

Craig A. Lang is the chairman of the board and chair of the Executive Committee. He has been a director of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation since 1992. In December 2001 he was elected president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and director and president of its subsidiary, Farm Bureau Management Corporation. In 2003 Lang was elected to the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation. He is also a director of FB BanCorp. He served as the Iowa governor's appointed chairman of the Grow Iowa Values Fund, within the Iowa Department of Economic Development, in 2003 and 2006. Lang was named a member of the Iowa Board of Regents in April 2007. Lang is the lead director of Iowa Telecom, and chairman of its Compensation Committee. Lang has farmed since 1973 in partnership with his father and brother on 1,200 acres near Brooklyn, Iowa.



Steve L. Baccus

Steve L. Baccus was named a Class B director in May 2002 after being named president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. He is also chairman of the board of directors of Farm Bureau Property & Casualty and a director of Farm Bureau Life, EquiTrust Life, Western Ag and FB BanCorp. In 2004 Baccus was elected to the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation. His family farm in Ottawa County, Kansas, produces wheat, milo, soybeans, sunflower and irrigated corn. Baccus earned bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Washburn University and Chapman College, respectively.



Roger K. Brooks

Roger K. Brooks was named a Class A director in May 2009, filling a board vacancy. Brooks is the retired chief executive officer and chairman of AmerUs Group. He retired from AmerUs in 2005, after nearly 50 years of service. Brooks has served on numerous community boards and is a member of the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame and Iowa Business Hall of Fame. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. Brooks graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa. He also participated in Stanford University's Executive Program.



Jerry L. Chicoine

Jerry L. Chicoine, Class A director since 1996, is the lead director of the independent directors, vice chairman of the board, and serves on the Executive Committee and the Management Development and Compensation Committee. Chicoine retired effective January 1, 2001, as chairman and chief executive officer of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. He had served in those capacities since 1999, and was Pioneer's executive vice president and chief operating officer since 1997. From 1988 to 1997 he had served as senior vice president and chief financial officer. He was named a director of Pioneer Hi-Bred in March 1998. He was named Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry by the Iowa Society of CPAs in 1998. He was a partner in the accounting firm of McGladrey & Pullen from 1969 to 1986 and also holds a law degree. He is a member of the board of directors of several non-public companies, including Ruan Holdings, The Weitz Company and Bankers Trust Company N.A. of Phoenix.



Tim H. Gill

Tim H. Gill, Class A director since 2004, has served as president and chief executive officer of Montana Livestock Ag Credit, Inc., since 1986. The company specializes in agricultural finance throughout the state of Montana, underwrites long-term real estate loans and has its own investment offerings. Gill is on the finance committee of Montana Stockgrowers; a trustee and finance chairman of the Montana Stockgrowers Research and Education Foundation; a member of the tax and credit committee of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; a director and past chairman of the Montana Council on Economic Education; a director of the Carroll College Athletic Association; and past chairman of the Animal Bio-Science Committee for Montana State University College of Agriculture. He is chair of the Class A Nominating and Governance Committee.



Robert H. Hanson

Robert H. Hanson, Class A director since 2004, served as investment banker with Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith in New York from 1965 to 1989, since 1972 as a vice president, specializing in providing corporate finance services to the regulated utilities and telecommunications industries. In 1990 he relocated to Cody, Wyoming, where he was employed by Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., as an account executive, and later by D.A. Davidson & Co., as vice president and office manager of that firm's Cody office. In 1993 he joined GST Telecommunications, Inc., initially as senior vice president – corporate development, and subsequently as chief financial officer, retiring from those positions in 1999. Hanson is a past member of the Wyoming Telecommunications Council and current president of the Boys & Girls Club of Park County, Wyoming. In addition, he is a director and trustee of two national conservation organizations, for which he has the responsibility for financial and investment management. Hanson is a graduate of Yale University. He is chair of the Finance Committee.



Craig D. Hill

Craig D. Hill was elected a Class B director in February 2007 and previously served as a Class B director from 2002 to 2004. He is vice president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and has served on its board of directors since 1989. He has served on the boards of Farm Bureau Life from 1989 to 2007, Property & Casualty since 1989, and also serves on the boards of Western Agricultural and Crop1 Insurance. Hill farms 1,000 acres of row crops and has a swine operation near Milo, Iowa.



James E. Hohmann

James E. (Jim) Hohmann was named chief executive officer of FBL Financial Group in January 2010, after eight months as interim CEO. He has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry. Before joining FBL Financial Group, Hohmann was president and CEO of Allstate Financial, with executive accountabilities for 15 Allstate affiliates. Prior to that, Hohmann was president and chief operating officer at Conseco, Inc.; president and CEO of XL Life and Annuity; and president, Financial Institutions, for Zurich Kemper Life. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. Hohmann earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Northwestern University, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Life Insurers, and currently serves on the board of OMNI Youth Services in Chicago.



Paul E. Larson

Paul E. Larson, Class A director since 2004, is the chair of the Audit Committee. He has been named by the board of directors as one of our “Audit Committee financial experts.” He retired in 1999 as president of Equitable Life of Iowa and its subsidiary, USG Annuity and Life, after 22 years with the companies. Larson holds both a law degree and a certified public accountant designation. He was named Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry by the Iowa Society of CPAs in 1999, and inducted into the American Institute of CPAs Business and Industry Hall of Fame in 2000. He is a member of the board of directors of non-public companies Wellmark, Inc., GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company and GuideOne Specialty Mutual Insurance Company. He was also a board member of EquiTrust Mutual Funds (which is managed by one of our subsidiaries), where he was chair of the Audit Committee and the committee’s financial expert. He resigned from the EquiTrust Mutual Funds board upon election to the FBL Financial Group board in 2004.



Edward W. Mehrer

Edward W. Mehrer, Class A director since 2004, is currently a member of the board of directors, and the audit and compensation committees of NovaStar Financial. He served as interim chief executive officer of CyDex, Inc., a drug delivery company, from late 2002 to mid-2003, and as its chief financial officer from November 1996 to December 2003. Prior to joining CyDex in 1996, Mehrer was executive vice president and chief financial and administrative officer of Marion Merrell Dow and a director and member of its executive committee. From 1976 to 1986, Mehrer served as partner-in-charge of audit and accounting for KPMG Peat Marwick in Kansas City, Missouri. The board of directors has named him as one of our “Audit Committee financial experts.”



Keith R. Olsen

Keith R. Olsen has served as a Class B director since May 2007. He previously served as a Class B director from 2002 to 2004. He is chairman of the Class B Nominating Committee. Olsen was elected president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation in 2002, and has been a member of its board of directors since 1992. He was elected to the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation in 2004. He is also a director of Farm Bureau Life, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty, and Western Agricultural Insurance Company. In February 2003 he became a director of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Nebraska. Olsen holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and has farmed 3,000 acres in southwest Nebraska for more than four decades.



Kevin G. Rogers

Kevin G. Rogers has served as a Class B director since February 2008. He has been president of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation since 2004. He also serves on the board of American Farm Bureau Federation and its executive committee, the National Cotton Council, the Cotton Board (treasurer) and is a member of the USDA’s Air Quality Task Force. Rogers is also a director of Farm Bureau Life and Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, and president and a director of Western Agricultural Insurance Company. His family farms 7,000 acres in the Phoenix area.



John E. Walker

John E. Walker, Class A director since 1996, is the chair of the Management Development and Compensation Committee. He retired January 1, 1996, from Business Men’s Assurance (BMA), Kansas City, Missouri, where he had been the managing director of Reinsurance Operations since 1979. He had been a member of the board of directors of BMA for 11 years prior to his retirement, and a member of its executive committee.