

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Wellness Councils of America

**Scott Presented Well Workplace Award by Wellness Councils of America
Nov. 10, 2006**

(Lynchburg, VA)----The Wellness Councils of America presented its coveted Gold Well Workplace Award to Scott Insurance. Scott is an independent insurance broker employing over 200 owners in 8 offices spanning 3 states. The Gold Well Workplace Award recognizes an organization for its commitment to the health and well-being of their employees. Becoming a Well Workplace means that Scott has joined the elite group of “America’s Healthiest Companies”. As a member of this elite group, Scott will now be considered one of the nation’s leaders in corporate health.

The Well Workplace Award was established in 1991. Much like the Malcolm Baldrige Award for Performance Excellence, the Well Workplace is driven by a set of rigorous standards which only a handful of organizations meet. Just over 700 corporations nationwide have achieved Well Workplace Status, including such industry leaders as Fed Ex, Merrill Lynch, Quaker Oats, Lucent Technologies, and Whirlpool. The award-winning organizations employ well over 1 million people. The Well Workplace Initiative’s blueprint approach to corporate wellness zeros in on seven critical benchmarks of success.

The Well Workplace Award integrates health promotions into the way a company does business. The award-winning approach to workplace wellness helps weave healthy lifestyles into the fabric of an organization’s culture. “Not only has Scott created a world-class wellness program, but also they have worked to integrate wellness programming into their vision and mission,” commented David Hunnicutt, President of the Wellness Councils of America. “Truly, Scott is forging new ground in workplace wellness---linking health promotion objectives to business outcomes.”

Hunnicutt goes on to say, “Scott accepted and has worked hard to meet the challenge of becoming one of America’s Healthiest Companies. By creating a well-structured health promotion program, Scott has created an ideal workplace that truly has changed the lives of its employees for the better.”

In the recent history of the Awards designation, Scott is the first company in Virginia to have been recognized. Scott’s executive team, along with their own benefits and wellness specialists, carefully studied their own plan design in order to create a program that would serve both the employee-owners and their corporate values.

President Walker Sydnor believes that the rewards of this approach exceeded expectations and produced impressive strides in the area of individual accountability as well as improving the overall well-being of the organization. Sydnor stated that, “ We thought that before we could advise our clients on how to improve the health and quality of life of their employees, we needed to walk the walk ourselves. So a couple of years ago we jumped headlong into a program where everyone was offered incentives to take responsibility for their health. We asked each employee/owner to do a realistic assessment of their current situation, set reasonable personal objectives, and partner with a coach that can help through the rough patches. The results have been fantastic! Some of our most reluctant participants have gained the most. Many people have improved their health and quality of life, and our financial results have been excellent. Receiving the "Gold" award from Welcoa on our first attempt is truly the icing on the cake!”



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