



Texas Chapter PRIMA 2005 Awards Program

Texas Chapter PRIMA provides an awards program to recognize excellence in the risk management field. Award categories include Risk Manager of the Year, Risk Associate of the Year, and the Risk Management Achievement of the Year.

The **Risk Manager of the Year** is the premier award category. This award recognizes one full-time practitioner of risk management duties each year whose performance is exceptional and sets the mark for the profession. This year's recipient will join an elite group of risk management professionals.

The **Risk Management Associate of the Year** recognizes a support

person (safety officer, benefits manager, etc.) whose performance is exceptional in terms of achieving risk management objectives in a public entity. This award category was created to recognize those who have made significant contributions to their entity's risk management program.

The third category, **Risk Management Achievement Award**, is designed to recognize excellence in a risk management program, product or project.

The deadline for award nominations has been extended to September 2, 2005. After the deadline, three committees will be selected to evaluate the applications. If you would like to serve on one of the evaluation committees, please contact

Martha Rider. Board members will not be eligible to serve on any of the evaluation committees.

Applications and instructions may be downloaded from the website at www.texasprima.org or you may contact Martha Rider, Awards Committee Chairperson, at 281-341-8630 or ridermar@co.fortbend.tx.us. Information on last year's award recipients is available on the web page. I encourage you to join the winner's circle. Remember, to be a winner, you must enter.

*Submitted by Martha Rider,
Awards Committee*

PRIMA Annual Conference

PRIMA was pleased by the responsive and enthusiastic turnout for the 26th Annual Conference in Milwaukee, *Wisconsin*. The educational program was one of the strongest ever produced.

PRIMA sends many thanks to the attendees for helping make the PRIMA 2005 Annual Conference such a success! The educational sessions were highly rated and recommended by attendees this year as the best of the best.

PRIMA promises that the 2006 educational sessions will be just as diverse, smart, and engaging. There will be something for every risk

management professional from the beginner to those more experienced. Over one hundred participants attended this year's educational site visits to such locales as the House of Harley, the Milwaukee County Zoo, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center, the Milwaukee Housing Authority's Urban Renewal Project, and the Central City Cyber School.

The House of Harley dealership visit was the most popular with over 60 risk management professionals attending. The members were able

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Gary Urban

A Message From The President

It is hard to believe that the National PRIMA Conference is already over and we are heading full speed towards our 16th Annual State Conference in Austin in November. Scott Payne, Conference Chair, and his team have put together superb educational tracks. You will see that the seminars key in on today's hot issues, to include the expected changes in law that impact the worlds of workers' compensation, employee benefits, safety, and liability. As always, there will also be time for rest & relaxation (R&R), networking, dancing, golf, and, most likely, a lot of eating. I believe that when you return home from Austin you will be even better equipped to tackle the risk management problems faced by your public entity, risk pool, or corporation.

The state of Texas was well represented at the national conference in Milwaukee, both in the number of attendees and in personal recognition. James E. Huckaby, ARM-P, Risk Manager, Mesquite ISD, was appointed President of National PRIMA. Linda Spacek,

CPM, CGBA, Assistant Director of Human Resources, City of San Marcos, was appointed to the Board of Directors of National PRIMA. Henry Kaplan, ARM, ALCM, Risk Specialist, Garland ISD, received a Chapter Service Award. Congratulations to these valued members. A special thank you to McGriff, Seibels and Williams of Texas, Inc., Munich-American RiskPartners, Review Med, TASB, ScripNet, Inc., and Hammerman & Gainer, Inc. for sponsoring a first class dinner in their honor.

Please review this newsletter thoroughly. It is a busy time of year and you will find valuable information on board elections, Texas Chapter PRIMA annual awards, regional activities, and much more. Hope to see you at regional meetings and in Austin this November.

*Submitted by Gary J. Urban, MA, ARM,
President, Texas Chapter PRIMA*

James Huckaby Inducted as President - PRIMA Central



At the annual conference held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, PRIMA Central inducted James E. Huckaby, ARM-P as President. Huckaby is the director of Risk Management for the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) in Mesquite, Texas; a position he has held for over 13 years. He has been cited as one of the "Top 10" Public Risk Managers in America published in the July 2000 edition of American City & County Magazine.

In 1996, he was recipient of the "Risk Manager of the Year" Award from the Texas PRIMA Chapter. Preceding that award, he was recognized by the Texas Safety Association as "Safety Manager of the Year" in 1995. Huckaby was elected to the National Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) as the region VI vice-president in 2002, and served as President-elect in 2004. Region VI includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Huckaby served on the Texas PRIMA Board of Directors for seven years, including the office of president in 1999. He also served on the board of the Texas Safety Association for two years. He is also past president of the Mesquite Rotary Club. Huckaby and his wife, Janice, a Community Liaison for the Dallas Independent School District, are the proud parents of two sons: Christopher is a senior at Texas A&M University at Commerce; and Stephen is a sophomore at John Horn High School in Mesquite, Texas.

North Texas Region Meetings



Fort Worth Meeting

On June 23, 2005 the North Texas Region of Texas PRIMA met at the Botanic Garden Center Complex in Fort Worth, Texas with 33 in attendance. Elliott Klein, attorney for Adelson, Testan, Brundo & Poplaro in Austin was the speaker. Mr. Klein discussed the recent changes in the workers' compensation law enacted in the Workers' Compensation Reform Act passed by the 79th Texas Legislature. Mr. Klein also handed out a summary of the Workers' Compensation Reform Act covering the main points.

Lunch from Jason's Deli was provided courtesy of Robert Waggoner, McGriff, Seibels & Williams. There was a variety of sandwich box lunches that was enjoyed by all.

Two \$25 Circuit City gift certificates from Tammy Leverett with ReviewMed, one \$25 Cinemark gift certificate from Terri Barrett with Argus, 4 Ranger Tickets w/parking passes from Karen Nickerson with Ward North America, and one clock/calendar/radio combo from Texas PRIMA were given as door prizes. Winners included Alan Smith, Garland ISD/Secretary Texas PRIMA; Janina Flores, City of Fort Worth; and Stephen Cole, City of Hurst.

We want to extend a special "thank you" to Janina Flores and Shaunette Smith, City of Fort Worth for hosting our meeting and providing such a beautiful facility.

Dallas Meeting

On June 22, 2005 the North Texas Region of Texas PRIMA met at CCS Consulting in Irving, Texas with 59 in attendance. Elliott Klein, Attorney for Adelson, Testan, Brundo & Poplaro in Austin was the speaker. Mr. Klein discussed the recent changes in the workers' compensation law enacted in the Workers' Compensation Reform Act passed by the 79th Texas Legislature. Mr. Klein also handed out a summary of the Workers' Compensation Reform Act covering the main points.

Lunch from On The Border was provided courtesy of our host, CCS Consulting. Fajitas with all the fixin's and a delicious variety of desserts were enjoyed by all.

Two \$25 Circuit City gift certificates from Tammy Leverett with ReviewMed and one \$25 Cinemark gift certificate from Terri Barrett with Argus were given as door prizes. Winners included Charles Gillenwater, City of Mesquite; Roxanna Kirkpatrick, City of Waco; and Nancy Davis, City of Lewisville. Also given away as prizes were a variety of desserts and tabletop decorations given by CCS Consulting.

We want to extend a special "thank you" to Cheryl Roberts, Suzanne Richardson, Deryck Parks and Mary Ann Friberg with CCS Consulting for hosting our meeting, assisting me with the meeting preparation and providing lunch for our regional meeting!

*Submitted by Lucy Conklin,
North Texas Regional Leader*

2005 Regional Leaders

Texas Chapter PRIMA is organized into six regions, each with a regional coordinator appointed by the Board of Directors. Watch for regional program announcements in your area, and bring an associate or colleague to the next meeting.

CENTRAL:

CYNTHIA VALDEZ,
City of San Antonio

GULF COAST:

FRED CONNELL, City of Pasadena
Y. ETTA McCUTCHEON,
Harris County

NORTH:

LUCY CONKLIN, City of Denton
KIMBERLY WEBB, City of Carrollton

PANHANDLE:

JIM SMITH, City of Amarillo

SOUTH:

NORMA JEAN RIVERA,
San Patricio County

WEST:

MARK BARTA, City of San Angelo

Survey Planned

The Professional Development Committee, chaired by Alan Smith, Risk Manager, Garland ISD, is exploring ways to help new risk managers get started in their careers and to help veteran risk managers review the basics of risk management. To accomplish this goal, the committee is developing a survey that may be distributed in September via e-mail to all members. Everyone is encouraged to complete this survey and return it in order to provide valuable feedback to help the committee design professional development programs.



PRIMA Chapter Service Award Recipient 2005

Henry Kaplan, ARM, ALCM, Risk Specialist with the Garland ISD and former President of Texas Chapter PRIMA was selected by the Chapter as the 2005 Service Award Recipient and honored at the National conference in June. He was selected for this honor for his leadership in his community and active participation in several safety and risk management professional organizations. His devotion to risk management and his reputation make him a leader whom others turn to for professional guidance and inspiration.

Henry is past-president and former member of the board of directors of Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA). He has served in all of the officer positions and has been a member of the Texas Chapter since 1992. He currently serves the chapter as newsletter editor, a quarterly publication. He has also served as a speaker at both state and national PRIMA conferences. As a chapter officer, Henry helped develop effective budget tracking and accountability procedures in addition to aiding the development of the chapter's Code of Ethics.

Henry Kaplan is the risk management

specialist for the Garland Independent School District. Before joining the school district, he served as safety and training specialist for the City of Garland and was a safety training instructor for the Haggar Slacks Company.

Submitted By

*Gary J. Urban, MA, ARM,
President, Texas Chapter PRIMA*

Notes from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on July 1 & 2, 2005, at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

Educational Meetings: It is the desire of the Board to continue reaching out to various areas of the state through live meetings as well as through technology such as telephones or satellite transmission. A task force of Regan Rychetsky, Mark Barta, Shannon Morgan and Melissa Sullinger was appointed to study and research ways to reach out to all members of PRIMA.

Risk Management Certificate Course: Scott Payne and Alan Smith are researching ways to set up a certification program for the Texas Chapter. The goal would be to structure a program in such a way that it is reasonable in price and appealing to a wide level of risk management experience. A survey will be sent to all members to identify competencies that should be included in this course.

Nominations for the Board: The position of Secretary and two Directors are up for election. Forms are posted on the website and contained in this newsletter.

PRIMA Insurance Policy: The Board approved renewal of our insurance policy through McGriff,

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Urban, MPA, ARM, President
Risk Manager, City of Waco
Email: garyu@ci.waco.tx.us

Scott Payne, President-Elect
Risk Manager, City of Denton
Email: scott.payne@cityofdenton.com

Alan Smith, CPCU, ARM, Secretary
Risk Manager, Garland ISD
Email: awsmith@garlandisd.net

Linda Spacek, CPM, CGBA, Treasurer
Risk Manager, City of San Marcos
Email: spacek_linda@ci.san-marcos.tx.us

Tina A. Paquet, Immediate Past President
Insurance Manager, City of Houston
Email: tina.paquet@cityofhouston.net

Martha Rider, Past President
Risk Manager, Fort Bend County
Email: ridermar.@co.fort-bend.tx.us

DIRECTORS

Mark Barta
Assistant City Manager, City of San Angelo
Email: mark.barta@sanangelotexas.us

Shannon Morgan, ARM
Risk Management Director, Jefferson County
Email: smorgan@co.jefferson.tx.us

Regan J. Rychetsky
Acting HHS Enterprise Risk Manager,
Texas Health & Human Services Commission
Email: regan.rychetsky@hpsc.state.tx.us

Melissa Sullinger
Loss Control Specialist, City of Plano
Email: melissasu@plano.gov

Director Emeritus

Cindy Kirk, CGBA
Risk Manager, City of Bryan
Email: ckirk@bryantx.gov

Seibels & Williams.

Conference Planning: The Board spent the majority of the meeting time on discussions about annual conference. The Conference Theme is Experience the New Renaissance with Texas PRIMA. Topics and speakers were discussed.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 16 at the Austin Renaissance Hotel.

Risk Management Ethics 101

Like a lot of you, I am currently working on RFPs for a number of insurance coverages. When it comes to liability, I notice that recent premiums show that coverage for errors & omissions is the highest of them all. Why is that? I can think of two basic reasons. One being that public entities are attractive targets that supposedly have deep pockets. We may have some immunity, but we still have to be defended by our legal representatives. Another reason for higher premiums is due to national and international scandals involving leaders of industry and high profile organizations. It seems that public entity leaders and employees may be put into a “guilt by association” situation. Anyway, what can be done about it – What can we do about it? Simply put, by remembering one word “Ethics” and “leading from where you are”. What I mean with “leading from where you are”, is that although we may not be at the top of the food chain in our organization, we can do what is right and help our leaders do the same.

Most of the activities that we are associated with have a Code of Ethics. Be it your employer, church, parents, community, or professional organizations, they all have ethical expectations from us. They may not always be written down, but we know what they are. In the end, most codes of ethics come down to just “doing what is morally and legally right”. Those of us that are in the public entity business or associated with it represent our employer and, just as important, ourselves. Also, engaging in activities that bring discredit to ourselves, likewise, brings discredit to our profession. Be it in a business or social setting, our profession is on display. As a member of PRIMA, we have two

Chapter Partners for 2005

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TML Intergovernmental Employees Benefits Pool
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ScriptNet
Midwest Employers Casualty Company
JI Companies
United Healthcare

well-developed Codes of Ethics created by the Texas Chapter PRIMA and National PRIMA. They superbly sum up what our profession stands for and serve as guides for our daily risk management activities.

Let me conclude by borrowing a line from another professional risk management association. One statement contained in the University Risk Management & Insurance

Association's Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct reads, “The representative's (member's) conduct shall be marked by integrity and dignity, and he or she shall expect and encourage such conduct by others”. Well said.

*Submitted by
Gary J. Urban, MA, ARM,
President, Texas Chapter PRIMA*

National PRIMA's Leadership Witnessed London Terrorist Attack

On July 7, 2005, PRIMA's President, James E. Huckaby, Past-President, Cindy Davis, and Executive Director, Jim Hirt and their families, witnessed first hand the worst terrorist attack on London since WWII.

While attending PRIMA's sister organization's (ALARM) annual conference in Manchester, England, PRIMA's leadership made a visit to London a day before the attacks. Having prepared themselves for a day of seeing London and its historical buildings, everything changed at 8:50 am. The PRIMA leadership was staying at the Hilton Metropole hotel in London that is located within fifty yards of the Edgware Road subway station, the site of the third bomb explosion.

Upon entering the hotel restaurant for breakfast, a news report came across that there was a power surge in one of the subway tunnels that caused an explosion. Huckaby stated that "at the time of the first report regarding a power surge, we believed it was an

explosion, self-contained in a section of the subway (or as referred to in England, the tube), far away from the hotel and wouldn't inhibit our excursion using the Edgware Road station." For nearly an hour this was what the London news was reporting.

At approximately 10:00 am, the hotel staff began to put on emergency jackets and paramedics were coming into the hotel. Soon injured citizens with bandages on their faces, arms and legs were being brought into the hotel lobby. The lobby was being used as a triage center.

As area streets closed and all transportation shut down, London, normally a very active and busy city, became quiet with the exception of the sirens from the city's police and firefighter units. Even with the news that shortly came after 10:00 am that there was indeed a terrorist attack; the citizens of London remained calm and complied with authorities to let them do their work. Several of the area businesses closed while others

remained open. Even some businesses had an emergency plan in place as local stores stationed a security employee outside their store checking all bags carried into the store. Some of the group ventured out and walked around the city on this day and they felt secure due to the containment of the situation by the emergency teams.

On Friday, July 8th, London was nearly back to its normal activity. Buses and taxis were back up running and all but two subway lines were opened up. "We resumed our sightseeing activities and everything appeared to be running smoothly" Huckaby said.

In closing, James stated "we are grateful to God for our group's safety because we had utilized the Edgware Road subway station approximately 11 hours prior to the explosion."

*Submitted by James Huckaby,
PRIMA President*

PRIMA Annual Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

to explore the intricacies of the day-to-day operations of a Harley-Davidson dealership. The second most popular site visit was to the County of Milwaukee Zoo. There was much interest shown in how to apply risk management principles to animal facilities. Forty-five of our risk management professionals attended this site visit and were given a comprehensive tour by knowledgeable zoo staff.

The other two visits were to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center and the Milwaukee Housing Authority's Urban Renewal Project and Central Cyber School. The Traffic Operation's Center offered an in-depth tour of the facility and the new MONITOR technology. The tour attendees also were able to witness the center in action as they dealt with a fatal accident on one of the local highways during the visit.

The Milwaukee Housing Authority's Urban Renewal Project and Central Cyber School showcased a highly successful building project with a technology component for building healthy and viable communities.

If you weren't able to attend the conference or if you missed a particular session, audio recordings of the educational sessions are still available. Please visit the PRIMA website and download the order form.

News From National PRIMA

PRIMA Supports Renewing TRIA

Following is a copy of a letter dated June 14, 2005 sent to The Honorable Richard Shelby, United States Senate, supporting the renewal of TRIA:

Dear Senator Shelby:

The Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) reflects the voice and interests of public entity risk management professionals. The membership of PRIMA includes entities already impacted by terrorism through the events of 9/11 and those responsible for facilities that are regarded as possible future targets. All entities must deal with the reality of terrorism to varying degrees.

For most PRIMA member entities, the availability of terrorism insurance is currently made possible by the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA). TRIA is scheduled to expire December 31, 2005 and Congress is currently considering its renewal.

PRIMA strongly supports the renewal of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) and sees it as critical, not just to the members most directly impacted or threatened, but for all its members. When any risk goes uninsured or underinsured, it impacts the ability of all participants to properly protect valuable assets and, should there be a loss, it has a particularly devastating impact on public entity services. As such, PRIMA recommends and encourages its members to contact their local Congressional representatives to extend the present TRIA legislation.

James E. Huckaby, PRIMA President 2005-06

PRIMA Elects New Board of Directors

The membership of the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) has elected a new president, a new president-elect and three new Board members. The 2,200-member group elected James E. Huckaby, ARM-P as its new president; Katharine M. Peeling, ARM, CPCU as president-elect; Linda Spacek, CPM, CGBA, as Director, Ron Hayes as Director, and Sarah Perry as Director, according to PRIMA's Executive Director James R. Hirt.

Incoming PRIMA President, James Huckaby, is the risk manager for Mesquite Independent School District in

Mesquite, Texas, the sixth largest district in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. His significant accomplishments include being named "Risk Manager of the Year" in Texas in 1996 and recognized as "Safety Manager of the Year" in 1995.

In addition, while sitting on the Texas PRIMA board he is credited with raising its membership 200 percent, writing and being awarded a grant for the funding of several one-day symposiums to focus on the important relationship between risk managers and chief executives of public entities. Huckaby also is a frequent public speaker on risk management/safety topics nationwide.

President-elect Katharine M. Peeling, ARM, CPCU, is the Risk Management Specialist for Anne Arundel County Public Schools in Annapolis, Md. Peeling has more than 16 years experience in the public risk field and as president-elect, she says she will strive to ensure that PRIMA succeeds in fulfilling its core mission of advancing the knowledge and practice of public risk management.



Linda Spacek, CPM, CGBA, is the Assistant Director of Human Resources/Risk Manager for the City of San Marcos, Texas. Spacek has more than 10 years of leadership experience with Texas Chapter PRIMA and five years experience serving on various PRIMA committees.

Spacek's leadership has been instrumental in obtaining grant funding for the Texas Chapter in the areas of strategic planning and educational programming to increase the presence of risk management in Texas public entities. She was named Safety Manager of the Year by the Texas Safety Association in 1996, received PRIMA's Chapter Service Award in 2003, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Texas Chapter.

Ron Hayes is the Risk Manager of Calcasieu Parish School Board in Lake Charles, La. During his more than 11 years as a risk manager, Hayes had the opportunity to become involved with both Louisiana PRIMA and national PRIMA. He served as president of Louisiana PRIMA from 1999-2000, and is currently serving as vice-president.

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Texas Chapter PRIMA
P.O. Box 4693
Austin, TX 78765-4693
Telephone:
512-394-0719
Fax: 512-394-0720

For information about the Chapter, visit the Texas Chapter PRIMA website at <http://www.texasprima.org>.

Newsletter Committee:

Henry Kaplan, Editor,
972-494-8382,

hdkaplan@garlandisd.net

Shannon Morgan, Board Liaison,
smorgan@co.jefferson.txs.jus

Cindy Kirk,
ckirk@bryantx.gov

Linda Spacek,
spacek_linda@ci/san-marcos.tx.us

IMPORTANT DATES

TEXAS PRIMA: 2005 Events

September 16

Texas Chapter Board Meeting

November 16 - 18

Texas Chapter PRIMA Conference & Exhibition (Austin)

NATIONAL PRIMA ANNUAL CONFERENCES:

June 11 - 14, 2006

Las Vegas, NV

June 10 - 13, 2007

Boston, MA

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is the official newsletter of Texas Chapter PRIMA. It is produced quarterly. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of Texas Chapter PRIMA. We want this newsletter to provide information to keep you -- our members -- abreast of chapter events and issues important to you. We encourage you to contribute so that this effort is successful. Please send your news, information, comments, etc. to your regional coordinator, to the editor, or to the chapter address. **The deadline for the next newsletter is October 7, 2005.**

Texas Chapter PRIMA
P.O. Box 4693
Austin, TX 78765-4693

