



### NATIONAL PRIMA CONFERENCE

Due to budget tightening, Texas PRIMA members were not as numerous at the National Conference this year, in contrast to previous years. But, while not present in numbers, were well represented by the number of awards won by Chapter members!

Tracy Seiler, of The University of Texas System, was awarded the Chapter Service Award. Tracy is President-Elect of Texas PRIMA.

The City of Bryan was the winner of the Public Sector Risk Management Achievement Award for their program, "City of Bryan Health Lifestyles Program." Leslie Becker received the award on behalf of the City of Bryan.

The Garland Independent School District received Honorable Mention in the Public Sector Risk Management Achievement Award for their program, "Reach for the Stars, but Watch Your Step." Alan Smith received the award on behalf of the school district.

Henry Kaplan from the Garland ISD made a presentation, "Loss Run Analysis: A Qualitative Approach," and Regan Rychetsky from the Texas Health & Human Services Commission made a presentation. Regan is President of Texas PRIMA.

James Huckaby of Mesquite ISD and Bruce Birdwell of the Port Authority of the Port of Houston, were in attendance. Both are former Presidents of Texas PRIMA and National PRIMA.



**James Huckaby won an IPOD Nano from Beecher Carlson.**  
Left to right: Ron Graybeal, James Huckaby, Debbie McAfee, Tom Jones



Left to right: Ron Hays- President National PRIMA, Alan Smith, Tracy Seiler, Leslie Becker, Sarah Perry- Past President National PRIMA, Regan Rychetsky-Texas PRIMA President

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This year I wanted Texas PRIMA to offer the Texas PRIMA Webinar Series in order to provide an additional educational resource and strengthen the quality of Texas PRIMA education and training offerings to Texas PRIMA members. I am ecstatic to say that Texas PRIMA has started offering webinars, and to date, we have had two webinars. Be on the watch for more webinar notices in the future.

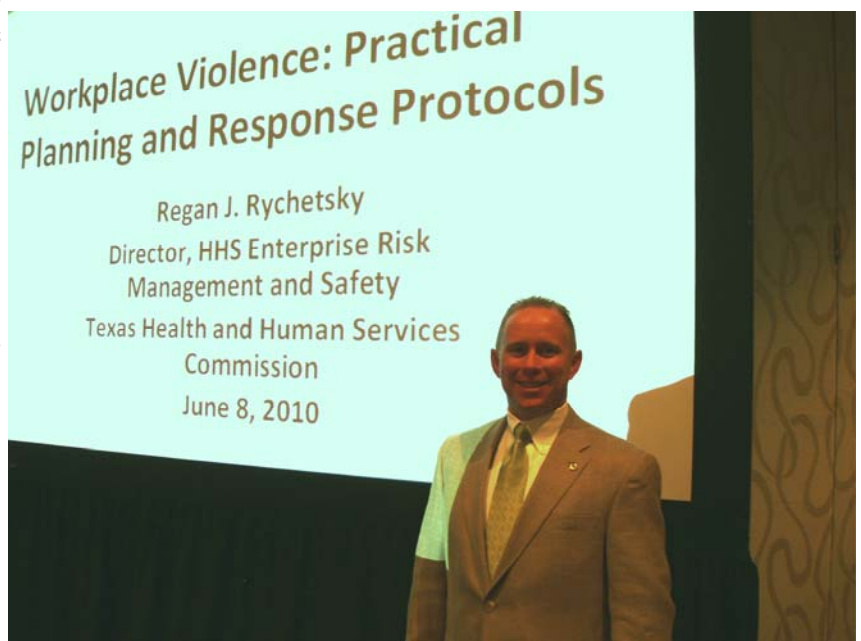
You will soon be receiving the 2010 Texas PRIMA Conference and Exhibition brochure in the mail. The theme of this year's conference is 'The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly...of Risk Management'. The conference will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa (just a 15 minute drive from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport). The Hyatt Lost Pines offers a vast array of activities and entertainment for all, and has several on-site dining choices...even Starbucks coffee!!!

Please note that we have a new format this year. Conference is starting on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and concluding on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, allowing Texas PRIMA to offer more educational sessions to our members. We will also have an educational session scheduled before the keynote address on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. We received an overwhelming response to our call for presentations this year and received outstanding submissions. The Education Committee worked diligently to review and choose presentations that could provide a diverse and strong educational conference for all attendees. We will also offer a session for the Certified School Risk Manager (CSRM) certification program. I firmly believe the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition will be our best conference to date. We are all facing lean economic times with budget cuts and travel restrictions. However, I can assure you that the educational sessions at this year's conference will provide you with the knowledge, tools and resources to improve your ability to mitigate risk, improve safety and reduce costs for your entity.

I, again, encourage Texas PRIMA members to become more active in this chapter, and agree to host a regional meeting, or offer to present an educational session at a regional meeting or webinar. With conference approaching in November we will be looking for members to help at conference as moderators. Call for nominations will be out soon, also. If you want to run for the Board of Directors, I encourage you to complete the nominations form and submit your information. Remember, this is your chapter, take an active role.

Pray for our troops. They need our support.

GIG'EM,  
Regan J. Rychetsky  
President  
Texas PRIMA



## TEXAS PRIMA & UNIVERSITY PARTNERS : PROMOTING PUBLIC RISK MANAGEMENT

TXPRIMA members are actively encouraging the next generation of risk managers to consider Public Entity Risk Management as a career of choice. To that end, members have been busy over the past few months visiting campuses across the state, where Risk Management and Insurance (RM&I) is offered as a field of study.

Donna James-City of Corpus Christi, Scott Payne-City of Denton, Cheryl Johnson-Dallas Independent School District and Charles Gillenwater-City of Mesquite, have recently shared their insight and experience with students at St. Mary's University, The University of North Texas (UNT), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Baylor University.

Each of the universities mentioned above, have students willing to work at entry level risk management positions, upon graduation. Additionally, the RM&I departments are always looking for internship opportunities for their students.

The next time you are in search of entry level employees, or a good RM&I intern, consider a student from our state-based universities that promote risk management as a career option. You will be glad you did!



Pictured is the UNT RMIS Club trip to the Dallas Stars game. Cheryl Johnson and Scott Payne attended as guests.

## HOT TOPIC SEMINAR ADDRESSES BIG RISKS FOR PUBLIC ENTITIES

Austin Texas, during the month of June, was hot! Not because of temperature, but due to heated discourse on serious risks of immediate concern among public entities within the state.

Risk professionals from across the state gathered to hear experts discuss risks associated with the Texas/Mexico border, Workers' Compensation Presumptive statute and Health Care reform.

Dr. Antonio (Tony) Zavaleta, PhD., University of Texas-Brownsville, along with Martin Cuellar-Sheriff of Webb County, provided a riveting overview of the current issues, risks and future concerns of the drug cartel wars occurring along the shared border with Mexico. Border as well as the integrity and stability of Mexico's governments (local, state and federal) affect all public entities within our state, regardless of location.

Mike Bratcher and Phil English, of the Texas Municipal League-Intergovernmental Risk Pool provided an overview of the Workers' Compensation Presumptive Disability statute, and how claims are adjudicated based on evidence-based medicine.

Ed Oleksiak, of Holmes-Murphy, spoke to the audience regarding Health Care Reform and the predicted impact of this historic piece of legislation on the future delivery and cost of health care to individuals, organizations and our nation.

DON'T MISS THIS ...

2010 **HOT TOPIC SEMINAR**

a professional risk management event sponsored by



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## SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL MEETING A SUCCESS

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A Texas PRIMA Regional Meeting was held on July 22, 2010 in San Antonio. Northeast Independent School District (NISD) hosted the event.

Steve Tovar and Diane Rhodes kicked off the meeting with a presentation of the NISD Wellness program, entitled "Wellness: Creating Health Initiative Practices to Improve Capacity to Learn and Increase Productivity". This unique approach to wellness addresses not only wellness for employees, but also students and parents, of the District. This innovative approach to wellness was of great interest for all in attendance.

Joshua Sutin and Quinn Baker, with Cox Smith Attorneys, presented an informative program concerning Health Care Reform. Sponsored by Wortham Insurance Services, the presentation titled "What Health Plan Sponsors Need to Know and Do Now" addressed immediate concerns, key definitions, and several action items for immediate consideration. Many questions were raised and addressed by both presenters.

Everyone in attendance has a better understanding of Health Care Reform and its foreseeable consequences.

After a lunch sponsored by Frost Insurance, Mitch Monis with National Health Administrators, presented a basic course for Long Term Care Insurance. His presentation addressed long term care insurance considerations when contemplating its purchase. This voluntary benefit is receiving more interest as our population ages and elder care becomes a bigger financial concern for all.

Thanks to all who contributed their time, talent and financial support for this informative opportunity to hear about issues of importance to Public Risk professionals and the entities they serve.



## RISK MANAGEMENT AWARDS— TOOT YOUR OWN HORN!



Texas PRIMA is looking for Risk Managers and programs that are reducing costs, reducing injuries, increasing wellness or other Risk Management activities that protect assets and manage risk for Texas Public entities. We want to recognize you. Fill out the online application at [www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org) Applications must be received by **September 1, 2010**. Good Luck and TOOT YOUR HORN!

\* **Risk Manager of the Year and Risk Management Associate of the Year** honors individuals who exemplify the title through continual innovation and commitment to the Risk Management field.

\* **Risk Management Program Achievement Awards** honor public entities with creative and successful risk management programs.

Do not be bashful. If you know of an individual or program that is deserving of recognition, Texas PRIMA wants to recognize them at our annual conference. The recognition will take place at the Awards Luncheon on November 9, 2010 at the Texas PRIMA Annual conference in Bastrop, Texas. Contact Bill Tarro, Awards Committee Chairman, at [billtarro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billtarro@sbcglobal.net) for any additional information.

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### **About This Newsletter**

This newsletter is published quarterly for the benefit of Texas PRIMA members. However, the opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of Texas PRIMA. The aim of this newsletter is to provide information to our members about Chapter events and risk management issues. Please send news, information, comments, etc. to the editor via email, [info@texasprima.org](mailto:info@texasprima.org).