



**Texas PRIMA 2013  
Moody Bowl Wrap Up!!!!**

**Volume 1, Issue 4**

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**President's Message**

Well, my last hooray as President is over. And what a hooray it was. From the first tee shot of the golf tournament to the last door prize at the closing session, there was nothing but action packed fun fellowship and learning. The weather was incredible. The opportunities to fellowship were great. The Keynote speaker really got us going. The educational sessions were packed with incredibly valuable information. The Opening Night Reception was the best in recent memory. The Closing session speaker helped wrap up everything for us. But best of all...our incredible sponsors and exhibitors. The support and enthusiasm that they showed was beyond belief. The theme was evident everywhere and our sponsors and exhibitors were really into it. And the BAND! That was just awesome. I just do not think I could have hoped for a better way to close what has been an incredible year for me.



**Bill Tarro, 2013 Texas PRIMA President**

But, I am saving the best for last. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with a very talented and professional group of people this year. Irma Hernandez, Gilbert Sanchez, Scott Payne (Dr. Doom), Prima Donna James-Spruce, the YA-YA sisters, Tracy Seiler and Cindy Kirk, Donna Stirman (DPS), Norma Jean Rivera, Sharada Phillips, and John Palm (Paul?) who comprised the Board this year were all very instrumental in putting together this very successful conference. Paula Bigan and to her wonderful staff members Alice Sasser and Lisa Gallo really keep us focused throughout the year in planning. The decoration queens Lesley Ward and Maria Quiroga who year after year capture the theme with awesome decorations, all done on a shoestring budget. And last but certainly not least the little "Cat Herder" Ashley Waggoner. None of this comes off without her tireless commitment to keeping everyone on task.

In closing, my wish to everyone is to have a very bless filled holiday season and a great year to come. See you in San Antonio in 2014!!



# CONGRATULATIONS 2014 Texas PRIMA Board of Directors!!!!

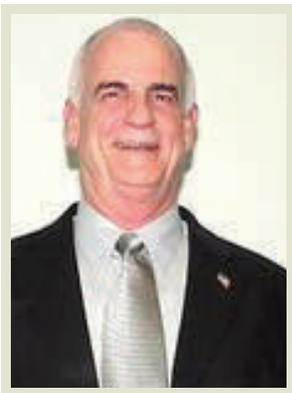
The Nominations Chair is pleased to announce the 2014 slate of officers for the Texas PRIMA chapter. Elections were conducted in October; the new Board was installed at our annual membership meeting at conference in Galveston this November, and the new Board terms begin January 1, 2014.

Our elected Board is comprised of two Past Presidents (Immediate Past and Past President), four Officers (President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer), and four Directors-at-Large. Each Director-at-Large is elected for a two-year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms. In accordance with Chapter bylaws, the outgoing President becomes a Director, the President Elect becomes President, and the Secretary becomes a nominee for President Elect. The Officers of the board shall nominate an active Director to serve as the Secretary prior to each annual election.

Nominations applications were made available via the Texas PRIMA [website](#) and were due by September 16<sup>th</sup>. On October 1<sup>st</sup> the electronic ballot was sent to the membership and included requests to approve changes to the by-laws. Ballot votes were due back by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**For 2014, the membership was asked to vote on filling two Director-at-Large positions. One was becoming vacant as the Director moved into the Secretary position while the other was due to the expiration of a two-year term limit. Two nominations were submitted and voted into office.**

## CONGRATULATIONS: Bruce F. Birdwell and Norma Jean Rivera:



**Bruce F. Birdwell, ARM, CSP**, has served as Director of Risk Management for the Port of Houston Authority since 2008, and possesses more than 30 years of experience. Previous positions include serving as Risk Manager for the cities of Irving and San Antonio, the Richardson ISD, and Bruce was the first executive director of the State Office of Risk Management. Bruce attended the United States Air Force Academy and the University of Texas. He possesses a bachelor's degree in business, completed most of the graduate work for an MBA, and is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT. Bruce has an Associate in Risk Management, is a Certified Safety Professional, and is the only two-time recipient of the Texas Safety Manager of the Year award. A recognized authority in governmental risk management issues, he is also a former National President of the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA).

**Norma Jean Rivera** has been employed by San Patricio County for 24 years and serves at the Human Resource Director. She has received a certificate in Advanced Human Resource Management, as well as various training from the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Municipal League, Texas DPS and other Associations. Her achievements at the County include implementation of a return to work program, annual health fairs and recognition by the Texas Association of Counties for their Gold Star Safety awards. Norma has been a member of Texas PRIMA since 1996. She coordinated regional meetings and served on the conference and member service committees. Norma has also participated in volunteer service for National PRIMA. Her commitment to Texas PRIMA includes attendance at every conference since becoming a member. Norma states that her leadership skills and willingness to work with others will make her a great team player and supporter for other entities and that being on the Board would provide a great opportunity to help others in keeping the Chapter united.



Tracy L. Seiler  
2013 Texas PRIMA Nominations Chair

# CONGRATULATIONS 2014 Texas PRIMA Board of Directors!!!! Continued

## Texas PRIMA 2014 Board

**PRESIDENT:**

Irma Hernandez—San Antonio ISD

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

Gilbert Sanchez—City of Laredo

**SECRETARY:**

Donna Parker-Stirman – Travis County

**TREASURER:**

Scott Payne – City of Denton

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**

Bill Tarro—Lubbock ISD

**PAST PRESIDENT:**

Donna James-Spruce—City of Corpus Christi

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**

John Palm— Allen ISD  
Sharada Phillips—Houston ISD

**Elected for 2014 are:**

\*Norma Jean Rivera—San Patricio County  
\*Bruce Birdwell—Port of Houston Authority

**DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

Cindy Kirk – City of Bryan



**2013 Annual Conference Recognizes and Awards Excellence in the Field of Risk Management!!!**



**RISK PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:**

Rick Stockton, CSRM, Director of Benefits and Risk Management for Klein Independent School District

Rick Stockton is the child of two physical education teachers and he grew up in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch (Amish) country. A multi-year letterman in baseball, basketball and football, he was inducted into the Garden Spot High School Athletic Hall of Fame in September 2012. Stockton graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Biological Sciences. After several years in research, he began a career in the insurance business in 1980, Following four years of individual sales, Stockton began marketing group products in 1984, gaining experience in every product and phase of the group insurance business, before becoming a benefits specialist for

Katy ISD in 1992. After eight years of responsibility for Katy ISD's employee benefits, Stockton was named to oversee Klein ISD's risk management program and employee benefits programs. His goal continues to be providing the best employee benefits at the best price, while minimizing the district's liability and maximizing their student/staff safety. Stockton says the best part about his job is that "there is never a dull moment...there is always more to do, more to learn, and more ways to help the employees and the district." Stockton and wife Carolyn have been married 26 years. Their daughter, Shannon, lives and works in Nashville, Tennessee. Stockton's two sons from a previous marriage, Jared and Kris, are both married and live in Austin, Texas. The Stocktons have three grandchildren. They are active members of the Cypress Creek Christian Church, the couple are avid fishermen and keep a boat at their second home in Aransas Pass. On occasion, they enjoy snow skiing and traveling.



**RISK ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR:**

Laurel S. Ferri, Administrative Officer, Employee Benefits and Risk Management for Corpus Christi Independent School District

Laurel Ferri has worked as a risk management professional for more than 35 years in various capacities. She began her career with the Houston ISD in the areas of safety and loss prevention, workers' compensation and asbestos hazard emergency response. In 1986, Ferri joined the Corpus Christi ISD's office of Risk Management. In her current role as the administrative officer of Employee Benefits and Risk Management, her responsibilities include protecting the district's employees and property by developing methods to identify and reduce exposure to risk.

**RISK MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:**



**CITY OF TYLER-Increase Fleet Safety/Decrease Claim Costs Through the use of Drivacam**

The program resulted in safer drivers and a 77% decrease in costs associated with collisions.



**KATY ISD-Safety BEAR Program**

The program uses benchmark grading to evaluate each campus on key areas and monitor results every six months to analyze the trends.



**CITY OF VICTORIA-Accident Prevention Program (APP)**

The APP has reduced workers' comp costs and lost time claims remain consistently low for the past five years.



**IRVING ISD-"The Impact of Risk is You" Safety Videos**

The videos were well received and for the first time ever a concerted effort to reach every employee class has been achieved.



**CORPUS CHRISTI ISD-Wellness at Work: Strategies for Organizational Change**

The office of Employee Benefits and Risk Management implemented programs and services for the 2013-2014 school year that represented input from employees, district administrators, health and wellness professionals, and district wellness advocates at each campus and department.

Norma Jean Rivera, Texas PRIMA Awards Program Committee Chair

## Texas PRIMA Board Welcomes & Celebrates 2013 Scholarship Recipients

What a great conference we had at Moody Gardens in Galveston last month. I can't believe it's already over and in January we will begin planning for 2014 in San Antonio!

I once again had the honor to serve as the Chair of Member Services, which included Conference Scholarships. The Scholarship program is one of the most fulfilling endeavors I've had the privilege of working on. The applicants are so humbled to be selected. For most, it was their first time to attend any conference and I don't think they knew what to expect. Each of the 12 recipients couldn't quit talking about what a great conference it was, how much they learned from the educational sessions, the networking opportunities, etc. etc. They all agreed they would be back next year! I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge JI Companies, McGriff and Munich Re. Their generosity made my job a whole lot easier.

I proudly introduce our 2013 Texas PRIMA Conference Scholarship Recipients:

**Connie Scott-Ortiz, City of Euless**  
**Stephanie Morgan, Parkland Hospital**  
**Meril Philip, City of Sugar Land**  
**Cristi Rendon, State Office of Risk Management**  
**Helen Berhane, Houston ISD**  
**Beth Taylor, San Antonio Fire Department**  
**Melanie Hill, City of Grapevine**  
**Jason Hardy, Grand Prairie ISD**  
**Dustin Thomas, NTSB Dept of State Health Services**  
**Benita Johnson, Community Healthcare**  
**Kim Ballard, Terrell State Hospital**  
**Millie Hill, Dallas ISD**

I want to share a couple of emails I received. **Connie Scott Ortiz** said "Personally, I tapped into a well of information like none other. I was able to attend 8 sessions in three days all related to my current field of work, as well as network with hundreds of people and businesses that provide options on the services I need to better serve our employees. Thank you Texas PRIMA sponsors and board of directors for allowing me the opportunity to enhance my skills and knowledge, I will be back next year and will make sure many more of my contacts are aware of this organization."

**Cristi Rendon** shared "I appreciate the opportunity that the PRIMA Board of Directors and sponsors provided for me to learn so much valuable information. The different risk professionals that I met were extremely knowledgeable and helpful in providing guidance. I was very intrigued with how different each of us manage the same type of risks. The beauty is that each approach is unique to the individual organization and is constantly improving. I gained a new prospective and ideas that I plan to implement and hope that after putting the information into practice myself, I can return to PRIMA and offer assistance to others in return." It was a pleasure meeting each of these fine Risk Professionals and I look forward to seeing each of them again next year for our 25<sup>th</sup> Texas PRIMA conference in San Antonio.

Donna Parker-Stirman, Texas PRIMA Member Services & Conference Scholarship Committee Chair



## **Defending Against Risk a Game Winner! Texas PRIMA Conference a Success!**

Got game? If you were at this year's Texas PRIMA conference in Galveston November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, you do now! A team of over 500 members, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors gathered at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center for a spectacular conference complete with marching bands, tail gates, and educational sessions conducted by the best coaches in the league!

This year was another terrific conference at a great venue. As always, the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center is a great facility for our conference. It is the goal of the PRIMA board for the Texas PRIMA Conference to provide a wide array of educational sessions that not only address current issues in the areas of insurance, risk management, employee benefits, and safety and workers' compensation, but also cover the basics for colleagues new to the field. The over 30 educational sessions were well attended and positively evaluated. Each year we request potential speakers to submit their proposals for the scheduled sessions, and each year it is hard to choose from the vast number of proposals submitted. We are excited to continue to have sessions that include presenters from Texas public entities, giving the audience an opportunity to hear from their peers in the state. So a big PRIMA THANK YOU to all who submitted terrific proposals. It was very difficult to narrow the field this year, but it's always good to have such an awesome selection to choose from!

We kicked Monday off strong with the great "pep talk" by keynote speaker Bruce Wilkinson while our closing speaker, Jeff Beals, taught us all how to "self market" ourselves. We hope you enjoyed all of our networking events and opportunities, from the golf tournament and Welcome Reception on Sunday, to the Opening Night Reception Monday evening that included a great opportunity to watch Monday Night Football on the IMAX! We're also proud of the award winners honored at Tuesday's Awards Luncheon and hope you might consider submitting a nomination for 2014.

As always, we are grateful for our sponsors, exhibitors and corporate members who continue to provide a wealth of information and support to make our conference affordable and beneficial for all. We hope you spent time with as many exhibitors as possible during the breaks and exhibit hall networking events. There is no way Texas PRIMA could continue to put on such exceptional conferences without the patronage of our fine group of 39 sponsors, and almost 40 exhibitors. We thank you and appreciate your participation.

Don't miss our 2014 conference where we'll be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Texas PRIMA Conference. We look forward to celebrating this historic conference with you November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Grand Hyatt hotel on the river walk in downtown San Antonio! This is a great location to commemorate 25-years of Texas PRIMA conferences! We hope to see you there!



# Texas PRIMA Board Member Spotlight

Bill Tarro grew up in Roswell New Mexico, graduated from Texas Tech and coached and taught for eight years for Lubbock ISD. He then entered the insurance industry and worked for Mass Mutual and Minnesota Mutual for ten years. In 1993, he started his Risk Management career with Lubbock Independent School District and has been in that position ever since. He has been a member of Texas PRIMA since 1993.

He has been nominated twice for the TASBO Commitment to Excellence Award, has won the TASB Risk Management Fund Innovation Award twice and was Texas PRIMA Risk Manager of the Year in 2007. He teaches Certified School Risk Manager courses for the National Alliance. He has served on the Texas PRIMA Board since 2009 and is the 2013 association President.

He has been married to his college sweetheart Barbara for forty-four years. They have a son, Clay who is married to Kelly. They have two children, Paige and Hudson who are the apple of their grandparent's eyes. And, of course, there is MacGhee, the very loveable Westie that dominates the lives of Bill and Barbara.



In the Texas PRIMA Volume I, Issue released in March 2013, Bill wrote, "I so look forward to my year as President of this wonderful and giving organization. I say thank you to all of you who have mentored me and shared your ideas unselfishly and to all the sponsors and exhibitors who support Texas Chapter PRIMA's goal of education and network opportunities for those who are new and those who wish to share their vast knowledge."

Well Mr. President another wonderful year and another outstanding and successful conference has come and gone and we (your board) thank you very much for your leadership and unwavering commitment to the Texas PRIMA sponsors and membership. As a tribute to you and your legacy we wanted you know just how we feel about you personally and professionally....

*Bill served as President Elect during my tenure as President. He showed me that he is a person that offers genuine support and "grounded" advice. Bill has a great positive disposition and makes everyone feel like a friend!*

**Donna James-Spruce (Immediate Past President)**

*Bill is an overall great guy. He is professional, ethical, compassionate, and supportive of all whom he interacts with. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with him on the Board.*

**Sharada Phillips (Director)**

*"Words I would use to best describe Bill would be : selfless, steady, Texas Tech and friend. Bill is a great guy who has always been willing to help whether I needed advice or a ride to the airport. He has been a true leader on the Texas PRIMA Board."*

**John Palm (Director)**

*Bill—he's a sharp professional who tends to the business at hand, yet is "casual" (his word) and easy-going with all. I love his humor, which he injects at just the right moment. He is truly a gentleman. Oh, and I think he plays a pretty good game of pool too.*

**Cindy Kirk (Director Emeritus)**

*It was a distinct pleasure to serve under Bill this year. He is incredibly patient, and very good at listening objectively to all perspectives on an issue. He did a great job of helping to build a cohesive Board "team" this year and I so enjoyed his casual and "laid-back" approach to things. Gun's Up!!!!*

**Scott Payne (Treasurer)**

*It was a pleasure to work with Bill as he came on the board as a director and worked his way up to President. He is a delight to work with, very decisive and makes my job so easy! And even though I am really a Longhorns fan, I would "Get my guns up" if Bill asked me to do so!*

**Paula Bigan (Horizon Meetings & Events)**

*Over the last four years Bill has shown to be a strong silent leader that approaches every issue unbiased and objectively working tirelessly to build consensus for the good of our organization. He has treated us with the utmost professionalism entrusting each of us to fulfill our duties and commitment to Texas PRIMA..*

**Gilbert Sanchez (Secretary)**

*Bill is a great guy and he worked very hard to keep harmony amongst the board members. He has a wonderful sense of humor and it was an honor to have him as the PRIMA President this past year. I will treasure the parting gift he gave us and will always remember the inscription.. ... "I cannot change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." Cheers!*

**Donna Parker Stirman (DPS) (Director)**

*I feel about Bill that despite the odds, he did his best to build a team environment and always attempted to ensure that everyone was made to feel a part of his team. He is a wonderfully caring, fair, and positive person and a friend. He's done a great job and will be missed!*

**Tracy Seiler (Past President)**

*One of the best things about being Texas PRIMA's Association Manager is that I get to work with a different coach each year. I really get to know the new President as we work together to plan board meetings, make conference preparations and deal with the tasks of managing the board and approximately 600 members. Bill is the kind of coach who lets you know that he has complete confidence in you. He doesn't question every move but if you need his advice, opinion or quick decision he's right there by your side as fast as you can text "Coach Tarro". It has been a great joy working with the Coach of the Year!*

**Ashley Waggoner (Association Manager)**

*Bill you and I have worked together on two association boards within the last ten years and working with you in this leadership capacity has been a pleasure and a rewarding experience. As the incoming president I will depend on your recent presidential expertise for guidance and your continued support for another successful year. I love you man!!!!*

**Irma Hernandez (President Elect)**

## Long Term Member Spotlight—Gary Urban

### IN THE SHOP AND OUT TO PASTURE...

At the age of 39+ Gary Urban is retiring as Risk Manager for the City of Waco. Gary has been in the risk management business for many years. First, over 25 years in the U.S. Air Force managing risk in the areas of flying, missile launch operations, command & control, intelligence and safety.

After leaving the Air Force in 1992, he was hired by the City of San Antonio. While in San Antonio, he was tutored by famous Risk Managers like Alan Smith and Bruce Birdwell. Notable projects for the Alamo City included developing safety training programs for some 12,500 City employees, performing safety inspections for construction of the Alamo Dome, coordinating elements of the Owner Controlled Insurance Program for the 1,500,000 square foot Convention Center, developing budgets, and being interim Risk Manager. He also coordinated several live chemical exercises for the Bexar County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The experiences with the City of San Antonio were challenging and rewarding. However, the personal experiences in this city were just as good. Both children, Karen and Matthew attended great schools and matured early. Both left home to attend Texas A&M schools at the age of 17.

In 2002, Gary took the job in Waco as Risk Manager. This position was vacant for nearly three years. As luck would have it, the challenges in Waco turned out to be opportunities. And yes, the ghost of Leroy Hyltin still roams the halls of City Hall. After being Risk Manager for a few years Gary was promoted to Director of General Services. This department included Purchasing Services, Facility Management and Fleet Services which were consolidated with Risk Management and the thirty-one year old Occupational Health Services Clinic.

While with Waco he had the opportunity to see "Six-Shooter Junction" grow and to help with many projects that will have long term positive results. Some projects include: Construction of a new modern Occupational Health Clinic and Fitness Center for City employees; five new fire stations; new Brazos River Dam; expansion of the Waco Convention Center; improvements to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum and Texas Sports Hall of Fame; creation of the Waco Prehistoric Mammoth Site; extensive expansion of Waco's Parks & Recreation Facilities; construction and renovation of four City Libraries; construction of the Police Department Headquarters; expansion of the Waco Airport; construction of a new Fire Maintenance facility and dedication of the Waco Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. From a risk management standpoint each of these projects had their unique challenges and lessons learned. For instance, make sure to check for illegal cemeteries first before you build on what you think is vacant land.

Gary is very proud of his association with Texas PRIMA. The networking and sharing of programs is a great benefit to folks new to risk management and to the more seasoned managers. His time as President and on the Board of Directors will also bring pleasant memories of intense business meetings, good golf courses, great food, getting to know folks who share your challenges, and a little legal gambling and dancing.

Following retirement at the end of December, Gary plans to visit family in San Antonio, San Marcos, Kansas and North Carolina. Additionally, there are plenty of home renovations needing to be done, working with several military veterans' organizations and tinkering with his antique farm tractors. Also, rumor has it that he will work in Waco on a part time basis. How do you spell consultant?

Gary wants everyone to keep in mind that like "change", taking some "risk" is sometimes a good thing. As the man said: *"Progress always involves risk; you can't steal second base and keep your foot on first base. Fredrick Wilcox"*

**Article written by: The Man Himself—Gary Urban**

**Best wishes on a long and fun retirement Gary, from all your friends at Texas PRIMA!!!!!!!**



# Texas PRIMA 2013 Regional Risk Management Seminars & Conference Educational Breakout Sessions Recap...

Hoping everyone had a safe return home from conference. In retrospect, this was one of the best conferences I've attended since serving on the board. The Educational sessions of each track were outstanding (not that I'm biased). In this regard I must give a special thanks to fellow board members who comprised the Education Committee Review panel which reviewed and ranked each submission: Sharada Phillips, Tracy Seiler and, last but not least, Donna Parker-Stirman.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Education Committee members. A special thanks and recognition goes to Susan Shoemake, McGriff, Seibels and Williams, who was the foundation in bringing and coordinating the regional sessions and attended each of the seminars. What a great job she did!

Also a special thanks goes out to, Luis Valdez, Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool, Sally Ann Rigdon, Via Metropolitan, Leslie Milvo, City of Austin, Donna Parker Stirman, Travis County and last but not least Sharada Phillips, Houston Independent School District. All of these individuals contributed their time and effort to develop and bring you the successful sessions at each of our regional risk seminars for 2013.

Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to thank all our presenters and sponsors at the regional seminars and state conference who donated their time and expense which enabled Texas PRIMA to bring quality educational sessions to its membership at minimal cost. Without their participation and support, we could not have accomplished our mission.

As we begin to prepare for next year; Texas PRIMA is looking already for presenters and sponsors for our regional meetings and state conference. The Education Committee encourages public and private entities to participate. We cannot succeed without you. Whether you want Texas PRIMA to present a specific topic of interest or if you want to present a topic please send your submission to [info@texasprima.org](mailto:info@texasprima.org).

After our meeting in January, 2014, the Education Committee will be rolling out regional meeting dates and venues for our next round of seminars. We hope to see you there and at our state conference in San Antonio!! **Viva Texas PRIMA!!!!**

Gilbert M. Sanchez, Texas PRIMA Education Committee Chair

## MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

**Tracy Seiler** joins the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) as their new Director of Risk Management Services effective September 11, 2013. Prior to joining TAC, Tracy was the Manager of Risk Finance for the Office of Risk Management at the University of Texas. Congratulations Tracy from all your colleagues on the Texas PRIMA Board. We look forward to continue working with you in your new role.

**Nancy McKenzie** recently joined the City of Arlington as the Risk Specialist. Prior to this new role, she was working with the City of Fort Worth for 8 years in the Risk Management Department. She has 30 years of experience in insurance claims and risk management. Congratulations Nancy. We all wish you great success in your new assignment.

## A Warm Welcome to New Texas PRIMA Members...

- **Eugene Barnard** - Birdville ISD
- **Daniel Barrett** - Owner, Barrett Insurance Services
- **Helen Berhane** - Workers' Compensation Manager, Houston ISD
- **James Edwards** - Human Resources Analyst, City of North Richland Hills
- **Allison Grant** - Underwriting Consultant, Liberty Mutual
- **Cindy Martin** - Project Manager, ACT
- **Candace Miller** - Risk Management Specialist, Birdville Independent School District
- **Charles Powell, M.D.** - President/Owner, CorpAllergy
- **Kari Zika** - Interim Director, City of Arlington

## First Time Conference Attendees...

- Stephanie Aerakis—Munich Re
- Michael S. Alexander—WJ Alexander & Associates
- Kim Ballard—Terrell State Hospital
- Angel Barnhart—City of Houston
- Jorietha Barry—City of Longview
- Melanie Bass—AIG
- Robert Bennett—Midlands
- Helen Berhane—Houston ISD
- Charity Boutte—Aetna
- Tom Brick—First Financial
- Doris Bridges—City of Dallas
- Nicole Canales—City of Corpus Christi
- Adam Care—Hartford Steam Boiler
- Eloy Ceballos—City of Corpus Christi
- Nicole Cempa—Fort Bend County
- Sylvia Cruz—Mission CISD
- Judy Cuellar—Brownsville ISD
- Missy Davidson—City of Huntsville
- Michael Dossing—TX HHS
- James Edwards—City of North Richland Hills
- James Emig—AIG
- Dwayne Frantz—Midland County
- Charles Hagen—City of San Angelo
- David Hardy—Grand Prairie ISD
- Alexcia Harrison—Aetna
- Jamee Higgins—City of Midland
- Melanie Hill—City of Grapevine
- Millie R. Hill—Dallas ISD
- Benita Johnson—Community Healthcare
- Erica Johnson—Collin County Gov't
- Jill King—Willis
- Anna Llamas—San Antonio ISD
- Gerard Lobosco—City of San Antonio
- Evie Lopez—City of Waco

- Anna Lisa Lozano—Ctr. Healthcare Svcs.
- Kenny Mallard—Brazos County Comm.
- Donnie Marek—Alvin ISD
- Belinda Medellin—City of Cedar Park
- Oscar Mendoza—TDCJ
- Tom Michel—San Jacinto River Authority
- Aundrea Mitchell—City of Dallas
- Shevis Moore—TASB
- Evangelina Moran—City of Waco
- Laurie O'Brien—City of Huntsville
- Michael Payton—Tarrant County College
- Yolanda Perez—City of Sugar Land
- Meril Philip—City of Sugar Land
- Jennifer Pierce—AIG
- Rose A. Ray—City of Tyler
- Carolyn Schoolcraft—City of Midland
- Lisa Seyler—RunMobile
- Yolandra Shaw—City of Houston
- Donna Siefker—OSS Investigations, Inc.
- Melody Smith—Strasburger & Price
- Paul Stone—Flahive, Ogden & Latson
- Julie Sullivan—TAC
- Beth Taylor—San Antonio Fire Dept.
- Kendra Taylor—TRISTAR
- Dustin Thomas—North TX State Hospital
- Jeff Thompson—TML
- Naveen Thowfeek—WJ Alexander & Associates
- Keesha Trim—Univ. North TX
- David Umscheid—TX HHS
- Michelle Vasquez—City of Midland
- Becky Vawter—University North TX
- Robert Warren—TX Criminal Justice Department
- Robin Wisthoff—Orchard Medical Consulting
- Anthony Wright—Safe Hands Insurance Services

## Letter From the Editor

At the 24th Texas PRIMA Annual Conference in Galveston in November we were joined by an enthusiastic and vivacious young group of Risk Professionals, who refer to themselves as Young Risk Professionals of Texas (YRP's). The YRP's were founded in September 2013 by eight members in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Their focus is to connect with other young professionals in the risk and insurance industry. They are committed to providing opportunities where networking, mentoring and education are at the forefront of their mission.

In addition to DFW, "CORE Teams" are spearheading groups across the state in Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

### Target Members

Employers \* Safety & Loss Control \* Brokers & Legal \* Managed Care  
 \* Risk Managers \* Carriers & TPAs \* Underwriters \* Students (Must be 21+)

### YRP Objectives

**NETWORKING**—To encourage relationship building among young professionals while promoting a community of colleagues and peers in the risk and insurance industry.

**MENTORING**—To create opportunities where both young and seasoned professionals can join together for mentorship and collaboration.

**EDUCATION**—To expand industry interest and motivate college students/recent graduates to get involved and connected.



Wow!!! Where was this group when we were growing up in the world of risk management, benefits, and safety? I want to believe that it is as a result of the blueprint created by the "MARP's" ("Middle Aged Risk Professionals" as christened by Tracy Seiler) that this young group evolved. Regardless of how they became we are ecstatic that they are making their "mark" and have joined the Texas PRIMA family.

Unlike the Baby Boomers aka "MARP's" the Generation Y, Echo Boomers or Millennials aka YRP's are young adults who are incredibly sophisticated, technology wise, immune to most traditional marketing and sales pitches because why? They grew up with it all, they've seen it all and have been exposed to it all since early childhood. Today's employers are seeking ways to best attract, manage and retain young talent from the "Y" Generation as they are seen as future business leaders. We see them also as future Texas PRIMA members and leaders in the insurance industry and look forward to their continued growth and success as they continue to pave the path long after we go "out to pasture" as my dear friend and colleague Gary Urban stated in his retirement address.



Irma Hernandez,  
 PHR, CSRM  
 Editor



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## Correspondence

The Texas PRIMA Press is the official newsletter of Texas PRIMA. Correspondence should be sent to:

Texas PRIMA  
PO Box 4695  
Austin, TX 78765-4693  
Telephone: 512-394-0719  
Fax: 512-394-0720

Facebook: Texas Chapter PRIMA

For information about the chapter, visit the Texas PRIMA website at:

[www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org)



## Communications Committee

Board Liaison & Newsletter Editor: Irma Hernandez

Assistant Editor: Ashley Waggoner

Website: Renae J. Burt

## 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).

**See you next year at the 25th Anniversary of the Annual Texas PRIMA Conference in the beautiful city of San Antonio, November 9—12, 2014. VIVA TEXAS PRIMA!!!**

