

PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

December 2018

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President's Message



Can you say 2018 Texas PRIMA Risk Revival? This year's conference was a tremendous success on so many levels. First and foremost, the wonderful family of sponsors we have behind us. Their dedication and support are so vital for the trajectory of this association, and it does not go unnoticed. Secondly, the hard working, creative, intelligent group of board members, who's execution of their duties was close to flawless. Their success began way before conference-time, with their assistance in planning and decision-making. Throughout the year with implementing the ambassador initiative, regional seminars/webinars, the board nomination and election, awards program, social media, newsletter and the ever-popular scholarship program, the board rose to the occasion! Thirdly, the amazing members that make up our Texas PRIMA family. Your attendance at educational offerings

throughout the year and at conference keeps the engine moving. Members' feedback and input on conference surveys is the way we continually improve upon what we have built, so keep those ideas coming.

Our keynote speaker, Jim Whitt, really jump-started us with his down to earth approach to change, with Jan McInnis' rounding it all out with her comic relief, as we ended the conference. The conference provided more education sessions than ever before, which were extremely well attended. Sessions were relevant, diverse and provided valuable information to newer risk management professionals as well as the more "seasoned". Congratulations again to our most deserving award winners! Ida Wall (Alief ISD) received the Risk Professional of The Year Award and Jamie Higgins (City of Midland) received the Rising Star Award. Mark Barta (City of Forth Worth) was elected and will be joining the Texas PRIMA Board of Directors in 2019, along with Melissa Steger (UT System), who will be returning for another term.

Last but not least, those memorable networking opportunities in the Exhibit Hall with our sponsors, exhibitors and fellow risk professionals.....and also at the Casino Night with the SPAZMATICS, who rocked sponsors and attendees alike with their amazing 80's entertainment and music!!! What a blast!!! We could not have chosen a better way to bring back the 80's Risk Revival.

It has been a great year, a great conference and a great experience serving as President this year. I have a special thank you for Gilbert Sanchez, Past President, who has been a leader on the Board of Directors for several years and will be going off the board this year. Gilbert, thank you for your service, your dedication and your friendship.

Believe it or not, the Board convenes right after the last session of conference to talk about what “worked” and how to improve for next year’s conference. And so, it has already begun! Next year we will be back “home” in Galveston at Moody Gardens for our 2019 Texas PRIMA annual conference. I wish you all a merry holiday season and a rockin’ New Year. See you in Galveston!

*Donna James-Spruce, ARM
2018 Texas PRIMA President*

**Save the Date: November 10-12, 2019
Texas PRIMA Annual Conference - Moody Gardens Galveston**

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 Texas PRIMA Board of Directors



The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 slate of new officers for the Texas PRIMA chapter. Elections were conducted in October before conference and the new Board was installed at our annual membership meeting at the conference in Las Colinas. The new Board term begins January 1, 2019.

Two open Directors-at Large positions were voted on by the membership. Five nominations were submitted and two were voted into office by the membership.

THANK YOU: Thank you to Past President Gilbert Sanchez for your service to Texas PRIMA. You will be missed at board meetings. We all look forward to seeing you at Regional Seminars and the Annual Conference!

CONGRATULATIONS: Melissa Steger and Mark Barta

Melissa Steger, MPA, University of Texas System

Melissa Steger has served as the Associate Director of Workers’ Compensation and Unemployment Insurance for the institutions of the University of Texas System since 2015 and possesses more



than 25 years of experience in the risk management field. Previous positions include service as the Assistant Director at UT Systems and several supervisory roles including those at both the Division of Workers' Compensation and at National ChoiceCare. Melissa attended Texas State University and received her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies and then went on to receive her Master of Public Administration degree from Texas State University. Melissa is a member of Texas PRIMA and has attended annual conferences since 2012 and is also a current Texas PRIMA board member.



Mark Barta, MBA, City of Fort Worth

Mark Barta has served as the Assistant Director of Human Resources, Risk Manager for the City of Fort Worth since 2015 and possesses more than 30 years of experience in the risk management field. Previous positions include service as the Senior Director of Business Development at Critical Health Connections and as both the Assistant City Manager and the Risk Manager at the City of San Angelo. Mark attended the University of Texas and received his degree in Business

Administration and then went on to receive

his Master of Business Administration degree from Angelo State University. Mark is a member of Texas PRIMA and has attended annual conferences since 2011 and is also a former Texas PRIMA board member.

Leslie Milvo and Donna Parker Stirman, Nominations Committee

2018 Annual Conference Recognizes and Awards Excellence in the Field of Risk Management



Pictured Left to Right: Risk Program Achievement Award, Wylie ISD; Risk Professional of the Year, Ida Wall; Risk Program Achievement Award, Northside ISD; Rising Star, Jamee Higgins, CRM; Risk Program Achievement Award, Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Risk Program Achievement Award, City of Pharr

RISK PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:

Ida Wall

Director of Risk Management, Alief ISD

Ida Wall in her 25th year for the Alief Independent School District. She started as a secretary in Risk Management and worked her way up in every position in the department. She finished her bachelor's degree in 2005 after which she became the benefits coordinator, benefits manager, and workers' compensation manager in 2011. She has now been the Director of Risk Management since 2014. Her experience has taught her to roll with the circumstances because things change quickly in the risk management world. She gives credit to her unique team who makes it worth coming to work every day. Ida enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with her daughter and son in law. She always looks forward to the next adventure life has to offer.

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR:

Jamee Higgins

Safety and Risk Manager, City of Midland

Jamee Higgins is Safety and Risk Manager at City of Midland where she leads hundreds of employees, administers training and safety programs, and serves as a support and resource to all other divisions of the entity. Jamee holds a Certified Risk Manager designation and a Texas Risk Manager license. Jamee also holds a Juris Doctor, a Master of Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. When Jamee is not identifying exposures, she makes jewelry. She is a Midland, Texas native who is very active in her church and community.

RISK MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Wylie ISD —Safety Training with a Purpose

Safety training is more than just a checklist. With an emphasis on purposeful safety training, Wylie ISD has bridged gaps between departments, generated monthly safety meetings, and formed subcommittees that standardized drill training district wide.

City of Pharr – Stretching Technique Program

By leveraging resources within the community, the City of Pharr implemented a stretching program resulting in a significant reduction in strain injuries reported.

Northside Independent School District – Webinars for Safety Coordinators and Workers' Compensation Editors

Protecting resources and supporting diverse learners, the Risk Management Office launched training webinars to educate district employees on employee safety and the WCI program.

Port of Corpus Christi Authority – Risk Assessment ISO 14001 Certification – Environmental Compliance

A strategic plan was implemented to ensure operations and activities are conducted in a manner conducive to environmental sustainability and resiliency.

Melissa Steger, Awards Chair

Texas PRIMA 29th Annual Conference Scholarship Program



What an awesome 29th conference it was at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas in Irving. All the hard work from the PRIMA President and board made the gathering at conference totally rad!

This year I had the privilege of Co-Chairing with Melissa Steger, marking it my seventh year to serve on the Scholarship Committee. We had 17 applications submitted, of which 16 were eligible, and awarded 13 scholarships to attend. We started the conference Sunday afternoon with a private reception in the President's Suite honoring our recipients and scholarship sponsors. I can't thank our generous sponsors enough. Each year, the number of sponsors who give grow, and the amount of their contribution grows as well. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Cigna, Commercial Risk Services, HCA Asset Management, LLC, Injury Management Organization, Inc., McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, The Jenkins Agency, Inc., Tristar Risk Management, United Healthcare, and York Risk Services.

I am proud to introduce our 2018 Texas PRIMA Conference Scholarship Recipients:

Fatima Arnett, City of Grapevine
Brenda Avery, Northside Independent School District
Kolby Burkhardt, City of New Braunfels
Mayra Caldera, Tarrant County
Eric Gossett, Lubbock Independent School District
Glenna Hayes, City of Wylie
Erana Hughes, Tarrant County Hospital District
Isabel Longoria, City of Pearland
Carolyn Rivera, Travis County Risk Management
Lauren Sandefer, City of Palestine
Stephen Vollbrecht, State Office of Risk Management
Beth Wedige, San Antonio Fire Department
Courtney Wood, City of Lewisville

I'd like to share some excerpts from a few emails I received after conference;

- Fatima Arnett wrote "Thanks to the scholarship program, I was able to attend and experience the PRIMA conference. The education tracks and networking opportunities were superb! Everyone was friendly and willing to share their knowledge. Thank you!"
- Mayra Caldera shared "As a first time attendee, Texas PRIMA was truly an amazing educational opportunity with some great sessions! Thank you Texas PRIMA for putting together a great conference."
- Eric Gossett said "The PRIMA conference overwhelmingly was a great event for me! The people I've met and the education sessions have already been extremely valuable. I anticipate the benefit I

will receive from attending the annual conference going forward.”

- Isabel Longoria stated “It was a great experience, my first time ever going to a Texas conference and like they say “everything is always bigger in Texas,” well I thought it was BIG. I took in a lot of the information I received from the sessions, as well as all the people I talked to. Thank you for the opportunity.”
- Beth Wedige shared “The conference was an amazing experience. The networking opportunities and education sessions have already proven to be great assets in my current position, and will help as I continue my career. I have referred back to resources gained at the conference and look forward to engaging with members throughout the year and again in Galveston for the 219 conference.”
- Courtney Wood wrote “I had such a wonderful time attending sessions and getting to know other risk professionals around the state! Thank you so much for the scholarship and the opportunity to be part of Texas PRIMA.”

It was a pleasure meeting each of these fine Risk Professionals and we look forward to seeing you in 2019 at Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston, Texas.

Donna Parker Stirman & Melissa Steger
2018 Conference Scholarship Co-Chairs

Members on the Move

2019 Public Risk Management Awareness Day – March 1, 2019

Congratulations to Estella Hinojosa on her retirement. Estella was hired in August 29, 1988, started as a cashier with the finance department and ended with Humana Resources 12/31/2018 with the title of Employee Benefits Coordinator for the City of Edinburg

Welcome New Members:

Rose Angelino, Pate Rehabilitation
Codi Bolding, Safety National
Nora Colorado, Delta Dental Insurance Company
Cecil Conner, THIE
Elizabeth Cooper, ARM, Texas Department of Insurance
Angelia Corley, Versant Health (Davis Vision/Superior Vision)
Jenni Garcia, City of Austin - Fire Department
Wesley Hall, City of Amarillo
Bob Haynes, Texas Municipal League IRP
Kerry Hennessy, ISYS Solutions, Inc.
Delia Hernandez, City of Austin
Todd Jacobsen, Old Republic
Jeff Jenkins, The Jenkins Agency Inc.
Irene Kasujja, City of Ennis
Detra Leary, Houston Independent School District
Aubrey Leggett, Brazos County
Helena Pina, Via Metropolitan Transit
Carrie Rambo, Richardson ISD
Carol Saucedo, VIA Metropolitan Transit
Brenda Soto, Harris County
Allison Tomasino, Berkley Public Entity Managers
Stephen Vollbrecht, State Office of Risk Management
David Weightman, PMA Companies
Kayla Wilson, City of Austin
Tammy Young, Houston Independent School District
Deborah Young, San Antonio State Hospital

The member's only section at texasprima.org is your year-round professional development tool! The community forum is a great place to post questions and answers to colleagues, the webinar page contains links to our new webinar series and the presentation archives page contains all of the conference and regional seminar presentations.

Sponsor Highlight



The Surplus Lines Stamping Office of Texas (SLTX) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Since the doors opened in 1988, SLTX has functioned to ensure the integrity of the excess and surplus (E&S) lines insurance market, with a commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and financial integrity in this segment of specialty insurance.

SLTX's mission is to provide business partners with meaningful data, analysis, and educational resources to empower their decisions. This is accomplished by aggregating pertinent detail and nurturing lines of communication with the various stakeholders to include agents/brokers, insurers, insureds, legislators, regulators, and trade associations.

Over the past year, SLTX has taken great strides in developing new technology strategies for the development of data, which supports the corporate vision "to lead with innovative solutions that enrich the Texas insurance and specialty marketplace."

During the last three years, SLTX has rebranded and pursued initiatives to better serve customers with current technology platforms from a redesign of the website, to a soon to arrive new online system. The SLTX system will be more intuitive for firms who are required to automate their E&S information into our system, and will introduce new, innovative features for modernization and ease of use. This new system has been branded with the name of "SMART," and is scheduled to be released during 2019.

As always, SLTX continues to provide oversight for a healthy, excess & surplus lines (E&S) insurance marketplace that will add value to all industry stakeholders and consumers alike. SLTX communications are centered around the comprehension, progress, and expansion of specialty insurance as the landscape of insurance changes, both domestically and globally. To that end, SLTX is committed to demonstrating that E&S is an effective solution for consumers who seek coverage for special risks, capacity, and unique needs.

Thank you Sponsors!

Platinum

McGriff Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc | York Risk Services Group | TRISTAR | Aetna | AON

Diamond

AS&G | UnitedHealthcare | CIGNA | Surplus Lines Stamping Office of Texas | Injury Management Organization, Inc | PMA Companies | AWPRx

Gold

Texas Political Subdivisions | Munich RE | Midwest Employers Casualty Company | Safety National | North American Solutions | Commercial Risk Services

Silver

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Svc, Inc. | TASB Risk Management Fund | Texas Association of Counties | TML-IRP | Travelers | CorVel | USI Insurance | HCA Asset Management, LLC | AIG (Chartis) | Versant Health (Davis Vision/Superior Vision) | Frost Insurance Agency | Claims Administrative Services | Eye Med | 1-2-1 Claims | Trident | First Financial | Genesis Mgt & Insurance Svc, Inc. | CHUBB | Delta Dental Insurance | Trinity Review Services | CCMSI | Drivecam Powered by Lytx | Liberty Mutual | Asperta, Ltd. | Origami Risk | Carlisle Insurance Agency, Inc. | Novare | Pate Rehabilitation | Alamo Insurance Group | Precision Safe Sidewalks, LLC | Morrison Investigations | The Jenkins Agency, Inc. | Brinson Benefits | ISYS Solutions, Inc. | Metadata | Berkley Public Entity Managers

Letter from the Editor



I want to thank all Texas PRIMA members for a rad year for public entity risk management professionals. I hope we were able to provide you with information to provoke thoughts, provide resources, and offer encouragement throughout the year. As we wrap up the year, we turn the page on this chapter and onto the next, I look forward to what new challenges and opportunities present Public Risk Manager in Texas and how Texas PRIMA's members step to meet those. Thanks to the Communication Committee for your time and efforts this year!

*Robert Warren, CRM, Robert.warren@arlingtontx.gov
PRIMA Press Editor & 2018 Communications Committee Chair*

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