

PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org

Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

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Texas PRIMA family, are you mission ready!?

We are just over two months out from conference, and I am so excited to see you all November 9th through 12th at the beautiful Moody Gardens in Galveston! We have had multiple webinars over the last several months and successfully completed our third annual Virtual Summit back in May. What's more is we have an incredible line-up for this year's conference! Check the [Schedule-at-a-Glance](#) for operation details.

The wait is over! Registration is now open, and it is mission critical that you get your registration completed by October 13th if you plan to take advantage of the early bird rate.

On Sunday, November 9th, we will have our welcome reception, providing an opportunity for all agents to meet the spy squad and fellow agents. Monday morning, we will begin with an intel briefing led by Lt. Col. Waldo Waldman, a combat decorated fighter pilot and peak performance expert, who will empower us with the skills needed to be agents of change. Over the next 2.5 days, there are over 45 educational sessions to choose from to gather intelligence from expert operatives in risk management and related fields. We will finish up on Wednesday with a powerful and inspiring keynote from Greg Offner, who is an author, speaker, and experiential strategist. You will want to stick around until the end for great door prizes!

[Register now](#) to accept the mission!

Jamee Higgins, CRM
2025 Texas PRIMA President



Are you ready!?

Observed annually in September, National Preparedness Month is an observance to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. Do you know what you would do in the event of a natural disaster? Disasters don't wait – make your plan today! For additional resources and toolkits, [click here](#).



Get Moving!

Feeling stressed out? Experiencing anxiety? Is the hustle and bustle wearing you down? If so, studies show that exercise can play a positive role in improving your mental wellness. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Conference Scholarship Opportunities

Interested in attending Texas PRIMA's annual conference but your entity's budget will not allow for it? Here's your opportunity to apply for a scholarship to the 2025 Texas PRIMA Conference in Galveston!

The conference scholarship allows public risk management professionals across the state of Texas to have the opportunity to attend the annual conference when their entity lacks the financial support to allow them to attend otherwise. Public entity members who have not participated in the last two Texas PRIMA conferences are eligible to submit an application.

Know a full-time student attending a Texas university or college and pursuing a degree in public administration, risk management, human resources, or related field? Encourage them to apply for one of our Student Scholarships!

Full and partial scholarship funds are awarded for registration, Texas PRIMA membership for 2026 and lodging at a hotel nearby the conference location. The scholarship application deadline is September 15th. A limited number of scholarships are available to attend the 2025 Texas PRIMA Conference, so don't delay - apply for an annual conference scholarship today!

[Scholarship Application](#)

[Student Scholarship Application](#)

*Mandy Riske
Scholarship Committee Chair*

Are you the next
Texas PRIMA
Board Member?

Apply Now



Application deadline is September 15th
www.TexasPRIMA.org

Board Nominations- Ready for Your Next Mission?

Have you thought about your next mission with Texas PRIMA? If so, please consider applying for the daring, yet rewarding position as a Texas PRIMA Director-at-large. Your mission serving as a board member will include valuable leadership opportunities, personal and professional development, a sense of achievement, deeper insight into a great association, and the chance to enhance your leadership skills while expanding your professional network. View the application for eligibility criteria and the commitment requirements. **Apply now!** The application deadline is **September 15th**. The ballot will be emailed to voting members on October 1st and Texas PRIMA members will be able to vote through October 28th. Newly elected board members are announced at Texas PRIMA's Annual Conference in November 2025. The Board term begins on January 1, 2026.

If you have any questions concerning the nominations and elections process, please contact Texas PRIMA at info@texasprima.org.

Berry Bairrington

Nominations and Elections Committee Chair



Operation Recognition: Seeking Elite Award Nominees

Are you a risk management spymaster? Are you the agency's best kept secret or holding classified intel on a mission-critical program that could revolutionize the risk management field? If so, Texas PRIMA is activating a covert call for nominations. It's time to unmask the unsung heroes of risk-whether it's you or a fellow agent of change. Submit your dossier for one of the following elite recognitions:

Risk Professional of the Year Award recognizes a master strategist who operates with precision, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the field of risk management and insurance.

Rising Star Award reserved for a promising recruit-2 to 7 years in the mission field, who has already shown signs of becoming a future legend. Leadership potential, achievement, and stealth-level skill are key.

Risk Management Program Achievement Award is for a groundbreaking operation-be it a project, program, or tool that has enhanced the safety, efficiency and success of a public entity. Creativity and impact are the mission parameters.

Operatives selected for the **Risk Professional of the Year** and **Rising Star** awards will receive:

- Top-clearance access (complimentary conference registration, valued at \$485)
- Secure lodging (one-night hotel accommodations, valued at \$149)

For full intel and to file your nomination, visit the online [Texas PRIMA Awards](#) page. All nominations are due by September 15th.



PRIMA 2025

PRIMA, the national association, hosted its annual conference in Seattle, WA back in June. Texas had an excellent representation at the conference, and some of the members of Texas PRIMA were presenters on some of the educational sessions. Additionally, Texas PRIMA leadership has notable representation on the national board. Former Texas PRIMA President Robert Warren (2022) and current Texas PRIMA President Jamee Higgins are on PRIMA's board of directors.



Not only that...

Each year, PRIMA honors only one chapter with a Chapter Recognition Award. The PRIMA Chapter Recognition Award honors a PRIMA chapter's newsletter, program, website, networking opportunities or any chapter activity deemed by a panel of judges to be the most worthy of recognition. This year, for the third consecutive year, Texas PRIMA received that award! Receiving this prestigious award multiple times highlights Texas PRIMA's excellent educational and networking opportunities and its commitment to continuous improvement.



Mandy Riske, Texas PRIMA President-Elect, was present to receive the award for Texas PRIMA. We are Texas proud of the benefits Texas PRIMA has brought and continues to bring to its members and the public risk management profession!



Education Update

September 17, 2025

[Mission Possible: Real-World Strategies for Empowering Change Agents to Drive Transformation Webinar](#)

October 1, 2025

[Risk Management 101 Webinar](#)

November 9-12, 2025 – Texas PRIMA Annual Conference at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX

[Register here!](#) *(early bird rates end Oct. 13)*

Don't forget that recordings of our webinars are in your [Community](#) under the Resources header.



Members on the Move

Congratulations to **Lynn Fagerstrom** on her recent retirement from the City of Wylie!

Congratulations to **Donna Parker Stirman** on her retirement from Hays County! Donna also served as Texas PRIMA President in 2016.

- Rachel Abate, City of Allen
- Julie Beggs, City of Kyle
- Cynthia Brown, City of Greenville
- Hiram Burguete, Mission CISD
- Carly Butts, City of Lubbock
- Lilly Clarke, Town of Sunnyvale
- Justin Cook, City of Jacksonville
- Juan Esquivel, City of San Antonio
- Caroline Green, City of Farmers Branch
- Bernie Grijalva, Collin County
- Annette Guerra Gonzales, Kerrville Public Utility Board
- Heidi Goonie, City of Missouri City
- Ryan Hinds, Recon Technical Solutions Inc
- Ava Hudnall, City of Baytown
- April Huitt, City of Midland
- Charles Hurst, City of Odessa
- Reina Rios, City of Pasadena
- Sandra Rodriguez, City of Portland
- Patricia Saccente, Prosper ISD
- Christian Tenorio, City of Edinburg
- Brittany Tucker, City of Nacogdoches
- Stephanie Villanueva, Kerrville Public Utility Board
- William Edward Zagorski, Sr., San Patricio County



July Member Spotlight

Brenda Soto, Director of Risk Management at Lonestar College

Brenda began her risk management career in 2009 and has held several adjuster roles for both private and public entities. Brenda shares that she has always been a lifelong learner—something the risk management industry continuously nurtures. She is grateful for the opportunity to grow and adapt, noting, “Risk management is always unpredictable, never boring, and sometimes it’s a love/hate relationship,” but it will always hold a special place in her life. She believes Texas PRIMA is a valuable resource that keeps members connected with emerging topics and serves as a “centralized hub of information” available at their fingertips.

Brenda is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership. Once completed, she plans to begin exploring risk management designations. In her spare time,

she enjoys podcasting, audiobooks, antique shopping, and being part of the Peloton community. She's also a proud Astros fan!



August Member Spotlight

Sallyann Rigdon, Risk Manager for VIA Metropolitan Transit

Sallyann has led a distinguished Risk Management career spanning nearly three decades. Her wealth of knowledge and experience in the field is remarkable. She began her professional career as an attorney; she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School and is licensed to practice law in both state and federal courts in Texas.

She currently serves as the Risk Manager for VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio, a role she has held for 17 years — one that brings her great fulfillment, as it combines both the Risk and Legal landscapes. Sallyann notes that people often assume she left her law career for risk management, but she happily responds that “nothing could be farther from the truth.” One of her favorite quotes is, “Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk,” by the Dalai Lama. Sallyann has served on various Texas PRIMA committees and also served as Wyoming PRIMA President. She is an avid reader and member of two book clubs, a movie buff, and enjoys walking, swimming, and dancing!



Quarterly Board Tip

This quarter's Board Tip comes from our Texas PRIMA Past President, Lesley Ward. *Go beyond collecting business cards. Build genuine connections with new people and learn from others. You never know when you might need to lean on a colleague!*



Letter From the Editor

Thank you for reading the latest edition of the Texas PRIMA Press newsletter. I hope you have found the updates and content to be beneficial. If you have ideas for articles or content you would like to see in future newsletters, please feel free to reach out. As we close out this newsletter, I leave you with this quote from Aristotle: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.”

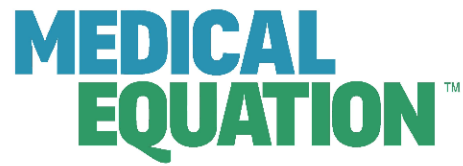
Mandy Riske, ARM
Texas PRIMA Press Editor
Texas PRIMA President-Elect
mriske@sanmarcostx.gov



Sponsor Highlight

Government entities face risks that are significantly different than those faced by commercial businesses and corporations. Public entities need an insurance partner who

is truly on the cutting edge of designing specialized insurance programs, but one who also understands the process of operating in the public sector.



In its 27th year in business, Medical Equation provides independent utilization management solutions for the insurance industry and bill review / expert witness testimony for law firms. The company was founded and is still owned by three physicians who lead a panel of over 30 reviewer physicians and specialists.

2024 - 2025 SPONSORS



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