

PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

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Greetings Texas PRIMA family! Happy 2025! I would like to start off by saying thank you for your patience as you wrangled the wild west with us at La Cantera for the 2024 annual conference. That was our biggest conference yet, with a total of 830 attendees! We hope to host even more at the 2025 annual conference, a mission we believe to be possible!

This year, the board welcomed Cindy Gutierrez and Travis Yarbrough and welcomed back Belinda Raindl. The board held its first meeting of 2025 in January, began planning for this year's conference, and talked through the many benefits Texas PRIMA has offered throughout the years. Over the last couple of years, we have hosted many more educational sessions throughout the year, all of which have offered continuing education credits from multiple agencies, a mid-year virtual summit also offering continuing education credits, and many more sessions offering continuing education credits available at conference.

As it is likely that we can all attest to rising costs all around us, the board has determined that it is time for us to raise the rates so that we may continue providing the benefits you have been receiving. The annual membership fee for public entity members is now \$85, so when you renew this fall, you will see this small increase. Additionally, annual conference registration rates will increase for all levels.

A great deal is in store for you this year! Hopefully you have attended the webinars and coffee talk we hosted thus far. If you haven't, don't worry! There are many more educational opportunities in store for you, including our third annual Virtual Summit in May. We intend to give you every clue you need to become an agent of change in your organization.

This year's conference will be November 9th through 12th at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Our theme is *Mission Possible: Agents of Change*. Start planning now to join us for the conference, and we hope to see you on the next webinar March 25th, as Stuart Colburn informs us of what to expect in workers' compensation in 2025. Find details regarding all things Texas PRIMA at texasprima.org. I look forward to an exciting year with you all!

Jamee Higgins, CRM
2025 Texas PRIMA President



Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers tips on how to avoid the consequences of distracted driving. [Click here](#) to learn more about their *Put the Phone Away or Pay* campaign.



What's With the Attitude?

Maintaining a positive attitude can sometimes feel challenging, especially when you experience stressors or come across obstacles. Indeed provides eleven tips for maintaining a positive attitude; [click here](#) to read the full article.



Education Update

In the spirit of our 2025 conference theme, *Mission Possible: Agents of Change*, the education committee is already preparing for the mission ahead: arming agents of change with the tools and resources needed to successfully complete their mission!

Made up of approximately thirty dedicated risk management professionals, the education committee is a dynamic group of *Agents of Change*, each passionate about delivering educational content that sparks innovation, fosters meaningful conversations, and equips you with the knowledge to make a lasting impact in your workplace. On February 14th, the committee held its first meeting and focused on planning the Public Risk Management Awareness Day Coffee Talk and the Texas PRIMA 2025 Virtual Summit: The Change Agent Experience. On behalf of the Texas PRIMA Board, I want to thank each committee member for their time and valuable contributions to the committee!

Together, we are on a mission to provide you with an educational experience that will leave you prepared for any mission, big or small. Check out the list of upcoming events below and stay tuned as we continue to announce additional educational webinars and networking opportunities designed to equip you for the mission ahead!

Upcoming Events:

March 25 - [Webinar: What You Need to Know about Workers' Compensation Claims in 2025](#)

April 16 - [Webinar: Speaking Our Language: Translating Concerns of Risk Management into Concerns of Law Enforcement](#)

May 13 & 14 (*mornings only*) - Texas PRIMA 2025 Virtual Summit: The Change Agent Experience (Save the Date – More information coming soon!)

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

*Belinda Raindl
2025 Education Chair*

Members on the Move



Fernando Hernandez recently accepted a new position as Risk & Safety Manager for the **City of Austin**. Congratulations, Fernando!



Congratulations to **Linda Spacek** on her retirement after 34 years with the **City of San Marcos**! Linda also served as Texas PRIMA President in 2000.



- Andrea Arenas, Workers' Comp Coordinator II, City of Houston
- Pearlie Bettis, Workers' Comp Coordinator II, City of Houston
- Charleane Edmond, Workers' Compensation Specialist, Spring Branch ISD
- Victor Fuentes, Safety & Risk Manager, City of Leander
- Lidia Garcia, Human Resources Generalist, City of Harlingen
- Scott Marion, EMC/Fire Marshal/Safety Director, San Patricio County
- Chris Martin, Director of Enterprise Risk Management, Texas Southern University
- Monique Montgomery, Safety & Risk Manager, Spring Branch ISD
- Lessie Morris, Workers' Comp Coordinator II, City of Houston
- Autumn Savoy, Administration Manager, City of Houston
- Corrinne Stiles-Lester, Safety & Risk Coordinator, City of Sugar Land
- Joseph Tracy, Risk and Safety Coordinator, Brazos County
- Lisa Watson, Workers' Compensation Coordinator II, City of Houston
- Tiayana Williams, Workers' Compensation Coordinator I, City of Houston
- Val Ybarra, Acrisure



February Member Spotlight

Kristan Cazares, Risk Management Specialist with Galveston County

Coming from a background in workforce management and analytics, Kristan quickly adapted to the world of risk management, where her role has increasingly focused on workplace safety, compliance, employee training, and wage practices for grant-funded projects. Reflecting on her journey, Kristan shares, “Risk Management is not just about managing what could go wrong; it’s about creating the conditions for what can go right.”



March Member Spotlight

Meredith Cerny, Risk Management Coordinator, Port of Corpus Christi

Meredith Cerny joined the Port of Corpus Christi risk management team in 2016 and states she has had no “dull moments” since! Reflecting on her career, she believes she is a lifelong learner and truly enjoys her career path in risk management. Meredith states she is part of an amazing risk management team at the Port of Corpus Christi, whose organization has been recognized with numerous achievement awards from both Texas PRIMA and the National Safety Council. Meredith is currently pursuing her ARM designation and hopes to start her master’s degree studies soon.



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 President John Quincy Adams: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

*Mandy Riske, ARM
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Texas PRIMA President-Elect
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Sponsor Highlight



Sedgwick is a leading global provider of technology-enabled risk, benefits and integrated business solutions. The company provides a broad range of resources tailored to clients' specific needs in casualty, property, marine, benefits and other lines. At Sedgwick, caring counts; through the dedication and expertise of nearly 27,000 colleagues across 65 countries, the company takes care of people and organizations by mitigating and



reducing risks and losses, promoting health and productivity, protecting brand reputations, and containing costs that can impact the bottom line.

Athens Administrators is a leading, privately-owned third-party administrator (TPA) that offers customized claims administration and managed care solutions tailored to public entities. We are dedicated to the long-term success of our clients by delivering exceptional, personalized claims management services. Over the past four decades, Athens Administrators has remained steadfastly customer-centric and service-focused.

AS&G Claims Administration, Inc. was established in 1983 as an independent claim adjusting company. During our 40 years in the industry, we have administered hundreds of self-insured and fully-insured property and casualty programs. Currently, our company handles workers' compensation, automobile, and general liability claims for more than five hundred employers and one million employees.

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