

# PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org  
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

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Guten Tag, Texas PRIMA!

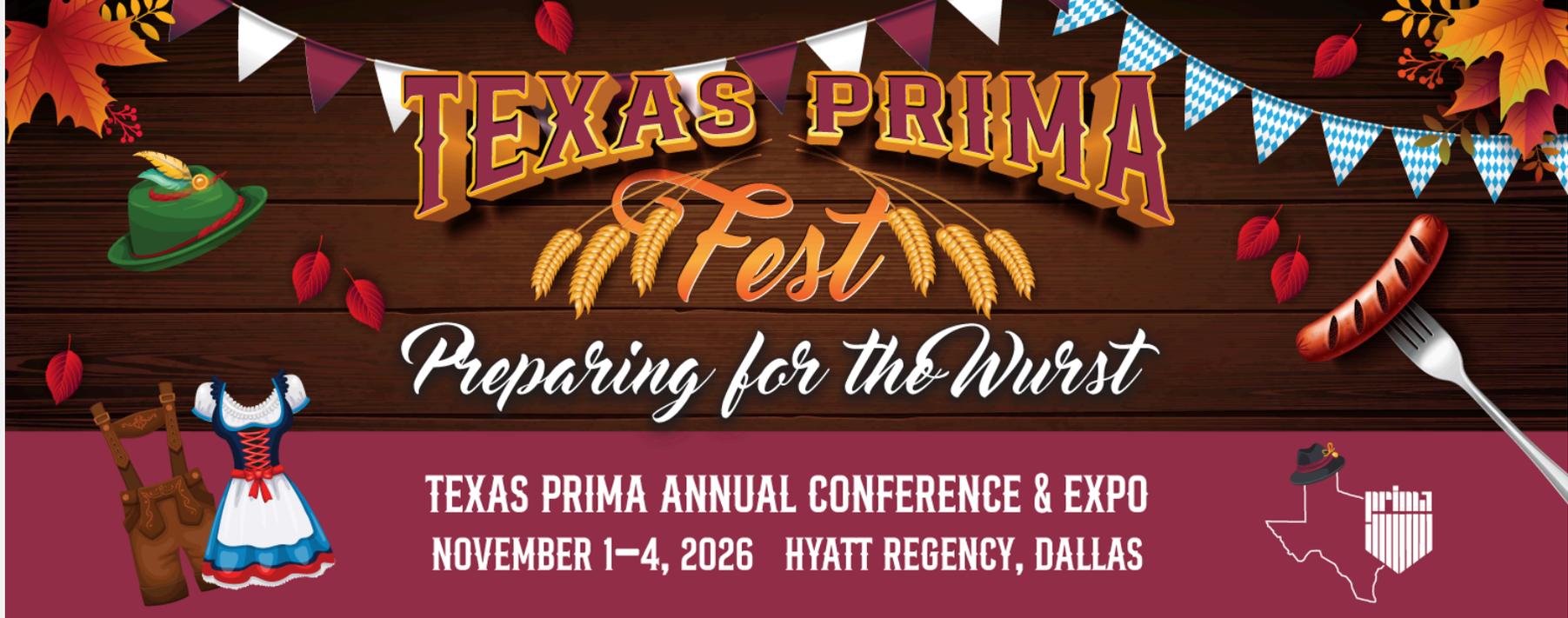
What a fantastic time we had together this past November as we gathered to make the Mission Possible! It was truly energizing to see so many of our fellow agents connecting, learning, and strengthening the relationships that make Texas PRIMA such a powerful professional community. The momentum from the conference continues to inspire our work, and I am grateful for the engagement and enthusiasm each of you brings to our organization.

As we look ahead, I am excited to officially welcome our newest board member, Fernando Hernandez. Fernando brings a fresh perspective and a strong commitment to public risk management in Texas. In January, your Board of Directors met to begin mapping out educational programs and networking opportunities for 2026, and I can confidently say we have some exciting initiatives brewing. From meaningful professional development to expanded opportunities to connect with peers, we are preparing for a year that will be both impactful and—dare I say—wunderbar.

Speaking of excitement, get ready for Texas PRIMA Fest: Preparing for the Wurst! Our 2026 conference theme brings a festive German flair to everything we do—because in risk management, preparation is key, and we know how to plan for the “wurst” while celebrating our successes along the way. We are also pleased to announce the dates for the 2026 conference have been modified. Mark your calendars now for November 1–4, 2026, when we will gather at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas for what promises to be an unforgettable event filled with learning, laughter, and a little lederhosen-inspired fun.

As we step into 2026, I encourage you to stay engaged, get involved, and join us as we continue building a strong, connected, and forward-thinking Texas PRIMA community. We hope you can join us for a Coffee Talk on March 6th as we discuss the creative ways Texas public entities are recognizing and celebrating Public Risk Management Awareness Day, and for our next webinar on March 31st with Jeff McKissack of Defense by Design. The year ahead is shaping up to be one for the books, so let's gather the oompah band, the bratwurst, and the best ideas as we Prepare for the Wurst—together!

Prost,  
Mandy Riske, ARM  
2026 Texas PRIMA President



### Facilities: A Critical Partner in Public Sector Risk Management

In Texas public entities, Facility Services departments do far more than manage repairs — they are a frontline defense against operational and safety risks. From lighting in stairwells to equipment maintenance, timely and properly executed repairs directly impact life safety, service continuity, and public trust. The article reinforces that life safety must always take precedence, even when budget or time pressures exist.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.tcrmf.org/resources-tcrmf-actual-content/risk-advisor-fund-newsletters/Winter-2025-Risk-Advisor-Facility-Services-Role-in-Risk-Management>



### Five Issues Redefining Workers' Compensation

From mental health barriers and regulatory friction to AI adoption and catastrophic risk planning, workers' compensation is being shaped by forces that are pushing the industry to look at the big picture to properly manage its programs. These emerging trends are influencing how organizations control costs, support recovery, and prepare for the future.

Read the full article here:

<https://carrierchronicles.com/5-issues-redefining-workers-compensation/>  
*Carrier Chronicles: Industry Trends*



## Annual Awards Program

Willkommen! Are you a risk management Meister? Is your program the pride of the village—carefully crafted, expertly led, and worthy of raising a stein in celebration? If so, Texas PRIMA invites you to step into the Festzelt and shine the spotlight on excellence in our field. It's time to honor the leaders, innovators, and rising talents who keep our public entities strong and resilient. Submit your nomination for one of the following distinguished honors:

### **Risk Professional of the Year Award**

Recognizes a true Meister of the craft—someone who leads with precision, innovation, and steadfast dedication to the field of risk management and insurance. This award celebrates excellence, leadership, and lasting impact.

### **Rising Star Award**

Reserved for an emerging talent with 2 to 7 years in the field who is already demonstrating exceptional promise. Leadership potential, professional achievement, and a strong commitment to the profession are the hallmarks of this honor.

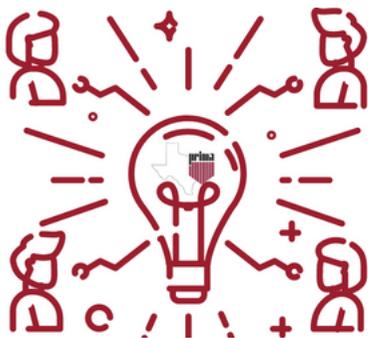
### **Risk Management Program Achievement Award**

Celebrates a standout initiative—whether a project, program, or tool—that has enhanced the safety, efficiency, and success of a public entity. Creativity, measurable impact, and forward-thinking design set these entries apart.

Recipients of the Risk Professional of the Year and Rising Star awards will receive:

- A complimentary conference registration (your pass to the Texas PRIMA Fest)
- One-night hotel accommodations (rest easy after the celebration)

For full details and to submit your nomination, [click here!](#)



## Education Update

### Celebrating Public Risk Management Day – Coffee Talk

Friday, March 6, 2026, 9:00AM -9:45AM CST

Join us as we celebrate Public Risk Management Awareness Day by sharing new ways to champion risk management awareness in the workplace. March 6 also marks Employee Appreciation Day, so we're eager to hear about the creative ways you are recognizing and celebrating your teams.

### Reputation Management – Webinar

Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 10:00AM -11:00AM CST

Join us as we learn about the number of risks facing the government, corporate, and nonprofit sectors. Most challenges, however, are less about technology, systems and protocols, and more about people. Focus will be placed on lesser recognized human issues in the three primary areas of physical, data, and reputational risk as well as points of liability, mitigation, documentation to reduce potential claims of negligence, whether tried in a court of law, or in the court of public opinion.

**New: Roundtable Panel Discussion & Social – In Person Learning & Networking**

Topic: Championing a Robust Safety Program

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026

Time: 3:30PM – 5:00PM CST, Networking Mixer to follow at Cosmic Saltillo

Location: City of Austin - HR Building, 5202 E. Ben White Blvd. Ste. 500, Austin, TX 78741

Come and join safety experts for a roundtable discussion focused on building a robust and effective safety program. This will be an opportunity to share insights, challenges and best practices that help create a strong culture of safety. A networking mixer will follow.

**Workers' Comp and Experience Mods Demystified: A Strategic Framework for HR & Risk Leaders – Webinar**

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 9:00AM -10:00AM CST

This webinar goes beyond coverage basics to help you understand how premiums are calculated, what drives your experience modifier and where you have leverage to reduce total cost. Managing cost, outcomes, and your experience modifiers is an impactful webinar designed for decision makers responsible for controlling workers' compensation claims costs.

**New: Texas PRIMA Spring Summit – In Person Learning & Networking**

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – 5:00PM CST, Networking Reception to follow at Palmers

Location: San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins St. San Marcos, TX 78666

We are excited to invite you to our inaugural in-person Texas PRIMA Summit where industry experts will come together for an afternoon of learning and networking. Mark your calendars – we can't wait to see everyone! More details coming soon.

**Texas PRIMA Annual Conference & Expo**

Date: November 1-4, 2026 (Please note the date change!)

Location: Hyatt Regency -Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. Dallas, TX 75207

Don't forget that recordings of our webinars are in the Texas PRIMA Community under the Resources header.

**Members on the Move**



Congratulations Melanie Hill, the new Human Resources Director for the City of

## WELCOME New Members

Congratulations to Todd Shade on his recent retirement from TASB Risk Management  
Jennifer Gilmore, Engineering Projects Coordinator, City of Conroe

Doris Hill, Adjuster, City of Dallas

Aaron Oik, Risk and Safety Specialist, City of Wichita Falls

Congratulations Martha Valderama, Port of Corpus Christi Authority on receiving her  
Stephanie Ramirez, Buyer II, City of Conroe

Brandy Taylor, Engineering Manager/Contract Administrator, City of Conroe

Current Texas PRIMA Director, Travis Yarborough, was promoted from the Assistant  
Director of Budget and Risk Management to the Assistant County Administrator.

## December Member Spotlight

### Jimmy Ramsey, Risk Technician for the City of Tyler

Jimmy is a seasoned public sector risk management professional who currently serves as  
the Risk Technician for the City of Tyler. Although he began his public sector career in risk  
management in 2015, his professional journey in risk management began in 2006 in the  
private sector through Human Resources.

Reflecting on his career, Jimmy shares that he is grateful for the educational  
opportunities he has been given while at the City of Tyler. He truly enjoys the risk  
management industry and states that he has found successful outcomes by being  
innovative and stepping outside of his comfort zone. Jimmy believes you must manifest  
positivity in all things.

Jimmy believes Texas PRIMA has been a valuable resource in his career. Through  
networking and continuing education opportunities, he has built meaningful connections  
with members who have provided exceptional guidance and insight into problem-solving.  
He enjoys documenting history and capturing images through photography. His personal  
motto is, "Preserving tomorrow's history, today."





### January Member Spotlight

#### David Sanchez, Risk Manager for the City of Amarillo

David Sanchez serves as the Risk Manager for the City of Amarillo. He has worked for the City of Amarillo since 2004, serving in various capacities before joining the Risk Management team in 2017 as a Safety Coordinator. In 2023, he was appointed Risk Manager.

Since joining the Risk Management team, David notes that not one day has been the same. He shares his favorite part of the job is collaborating with his team to identify solutions and implement policies that make the workplace safer. David believes Texas PRIMA has been a valuable resource throughout his career. Through continuing education and professional networking, he has enhanced his expertise and developed valuable relationships that support effective problem-solving.

David firmly believes that “a rolling stone never collects any moss,” a piece of advice he often shares with his team. This philosophy reflects the ever-evolving nature of the risk management industry. While David values work-life balance and spends time preparing for the ARM designation, his true passion is traveling with his spouse whenever time permits.



### February Member Spotlight

#### Nina Reyes, Claims Administrator for the City of Garland

With a career spanning more than two decades, Nina has been making an impact in risk management since entering the field in 1998. Beginning as a Benefits Representative supporting Workers' Compensation and Employee Benefits programs, Nina's career has grown through progressive leadership roles including Department Coordinator and Liability & Workers' Compensation Manager. In January 2026, Nina reached another milestone by being appointed Claims Administrator, now overseeing both Workers' Compensation and Property & Casualty Programs.

Nina shares that Texas PRIMA has played an important role in her journey by providing high-quality continuing education through webinars and conference sessions, along with meaningful networking opportunities that strengthen professional connections across the state.

Academically and professionally, Nina holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, recently completing the ICMA High Performance Leadership Academy, and is currently preparing to earn the Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designation.

Nina's favorite quote perfectly reflects her leadership philosophy:

*“Risk management is not about avoiding risk – it is about enabling informed decisions.”*

Outside of work, Nina enjoys traveling and exploring new cultures, which she credits with helping broaden their perspective and bringing fresh ideas into both personal and professional life.



## Letter From the Editor

Thank you for reading the latest edition of the Texas PRIMA Press newsletter. I hope you 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.

*Belinda Raindl*  
Texas PRIMA Press Editor  
Texas PRIMA Secretary  
[Belinda Raindl](#)



## 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 third-generation, privately owned TPA with over 45 years of expertise helping public entities reduce the cost of risk. We partner closely with clients, delivering lasting benefits through innovative methods, advanced technology, and tailored strategies. Our collaborative, client-focused approach ensures solutions that save time, effort, and money while achieving exceptional results and long-term value.



TPS has provided superior workers' compensation and property/casualty coverage to public entities for 29 years. Our administration of insurance programs helps control costs through competitive pricing and aggressive claims management, reduces claims by offering free loss control, and ultimately frees financial resources for other needs.



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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