



Inside this issue:

Award Recipients	2
Texas PRIMA Golf Tournament	2
Sponsor Highlight	3
Workers' Compensation	3
Scholarship	3
Chapter Sponsors	4
Education Committee	4
Board of Directors	5
Treasurer's Report	5
Regional Meeting	6



FROM THE NIB OF THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe we are on the cusp of 2011. We accomplished a lot this year in Texas PRIMA. We implemented on-line submissions of educational session proposals for conference, introduced the Texas PRIMA Webinar Series and initiated email voting for members, to name a few.

The 2010 Annual Conference was awesome, and we have heard rave reviews about the venue, food, educational sessions and speakers. I would be remiss not to thank the Conference Chair, Tracy Seiler, and Education Chair, Donna James-Spruce, for their hard work and dedication to raising the Texas PRIMA Annual Conference to the next level. I see this as a trend of things to come.

As you complete your holiday shopping, attend religious services and gather to celebrate, remember you have this right and privilege because of the sacrifices of a few...the United States Armed Forces. Remember those who have fallen protecting your freedom to exercise your rights on a daily basis. Freedom is not free. Former President Ronald Reagan said, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem." I do not imagine any of our United States Armed Forces veterans and current soldiers have that problem either. Let us give thanks to those who have paid the ultimate price defending the United States.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this past year. Have a Happy Holiday Season.

Gig'Em,
Regan J. Rychetsky
2010 Texas PRIMA President



Congratulations to the 2010 Award Winners



RISK MANAGER OF THE YEAR:
Clark Adkins



RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR:
John Palm III, ARM

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:



Workers' Compensation Medical Care Program, Dallas I.S.D.



Maximizing Employee Benefit Effectiveness: Creative Communications, Enrollment, and Cost-Containment Strategies, Corpus Christi I.S.D.



Comprehensive Safety Audit Tools for School Campuses, Kitchens, and Non-Campus Facilities, Mesquite I.S.D.

2010 Texas PRIMA Golf Tournament



Regan Rychetsky presents Bob Bookhammer with the "closest to the pin" prize. (above)

We had a Chamber of Commerce day for the 2010 Texas PRIMA Golf Tournament played at the beautiful Wolfdancer Golf Club at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa. The course was in magnificent shape and the professional staff was awesome! We all had a great time.

We hit a pinnacle (pardon the pun) in this year's tournament. Bob "Ace" Bookhammer won closest to the pin with a Hole in One. You cannot get closer than an ace. Congratulations, Bob, on a great shot!

I want to thank our phenomenal sponsors McGriff, Seibels and Williams, Inc., JI Companies, CIGNA Healthcare, AS&G Claims Administration and Aetna for supporting the golf tournament. Without their support, the tournament would not be a success. *Regan Rychetsky*





Sponsor Highlight: McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc.

McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc., Dallas office, is excited to announce it has appointed Johnny Fontenot as Executive Vice President and the new Head of Office in Dallas. McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc. is a fully-owned subsidiary of BB&T Corporation, one of the nation's largest financial holding companies with over \$152 billion in assets and over 29,000 employees. BB&T Insurance Services/MSW is ranked 6th in the Business Insurance "Largest Brokers of U.S. Business."



Johnny opened the Dallas office for McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc. in 1998 and has focused his attention on growing the Public Entity Division in Texas. Johnny previously worked as a producer for another broker and was a Risk Manager for both the City of Garland and the City of Beaumont. Johnny has over 25 years of experience in insurance and risk management, 12 of which are at McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc.

McGriff has grown over 300% in the last 10 years. We are eager to have Johnny leading our Dallas office to continue growing the future of McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION WEEKLY BENEFIT RATES DROP FOR FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS

Austin, TX—In accordance with the Texas Labor Code (TLC) §408.047, the workers' compensation state average weekly wage is equal to 88 percent of the average weekly wage in covered employment as computed each year by the Texas Workforce Commission under TLC §207.002(c).

The workers' compensation state average weekly wage for dates of injury from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 is set at \$766.34. In accordance with TLC §408.061 and §408.062, the maximum weekly benefit rates for workers' compensation income benefits is set at \$766 and the minimum weekly benefit rate is set at \$115 for that period.

The maximum and minimum weekly benefit rates for dates of injury from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 were \$773 and \$116 respectively.

A table showing maximum and minimum weekly benefit amounts for injuries that occurred on or after January 1, 1991 is available on the Texas Department of Insurance website at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/employee/maxminbens.html>.

For more information contact: Public.Information@tdi.state.tx.us

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

Texas PRIMA scholarship recipients receive complimentary conference registration, reimbursement for conference travel and lodging, and a complimentary membership in Texas PRIMA through 2011.

Nick Garcia, Ellis County
 Marion McMinn, City of San Angelo
 Darryl Simon, Spring ISD
 Janice Savage-Martin, Duncanville ISD
 Connie Scott-Ortiz, City of Euless
 Mike Aston, New Caney ISD
 Michele Linn, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD
 Kimberly Piland, Brazoria County

2011 Chapter Sponsors

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Inc.

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Surplus Lines Stamping Office of Texas

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Block Vision of Texas

Safety National

EyeMed Vision Care

USI Southwest

Hats off to our 2010-2011 Chapter Sponsors!



Without the Texas PRIMA sponsors, our annual conference would not have been possible. Their generous contributions, helped make our annual conference successful, by offsetting some of the associated costs.

Sponsorship is not just for conference time...Texas Chapter Sponsorships extend to every segment of TX PRIMA activities, providing funding for professional development, regional activities, and educational programs year-round.

Contact your TXPRIMA Board to discuss what your organization can do to sponsor future events.

Education Committee Efforts are all about "YOU"

Overall coordination of education is the responsibility of the Education Committee, and they have made some awesome accomplishments, over the past few months! Using results from last 2009's Regional Meetings survey, TXPRIMA offered its first ever webinar training. We look forward to more in the upcoming months.

Our Regional meetings, Hot Topic meeting and Bastrop Conference sessions were a huge success, with excellent speakers and attendance. CE credit was obtained for every meeting and conference session. In addition, you probably noticed that you paid less this year, for our Regional and Hot Topic education! This resulted in greater value to our members who were in need of CE credit.

The Education Committee improved the annual conference education/presentation process as well. All submissions were 100% electronic. This made it easier for the presenters to submit the required information and it streamlined the process for the Education Committee. The committee scored each submission, based on subjective criteria, resulting in the conference course offerings.

Please continue to support our Education Committee by giving us feedback as to the types of education you would like to see for 2011 and beyond.

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Texas PRIMA 2011 Board of Directors

Front Row: Cynthia Kirk, Donna James-Spruce, Tracy Seiler,
Sharada Phillips, Irma Hernandez

Back Row: David Kester, Scott Payne, Bill Tarro, Charles
Gillenwater, Gilbert Sanchez, Regan Rychetsky



TREASURER'S REPORT As of November 2010



The cash balance for Texas Chapter PRIMA as of the beginning of this fiscal year was \$223,879. As of August 31, 2010, current revenues were \$125,304 and expenditures were \$101,500 leaving cash balance at that date of \$247,683. The majority of our revenues and expenditures relate to the annual conference, so final numbers for this year will reflect that information.

The financial activity of the Association for the fiscal year will be subject to an annual review by an external accountant and presented to the board for approval. An updated report based on this review will be presented to the membership at next year's business meeting.

North Texas Regional Meeting a Success!



North Texas Public Entity Risk Management professionals gathered in Mesquite to share and learn about issues and concerns affecting risk management decision making today.

Mesquite Independent School District

(MISD) played host to approximately sixty risk management professionals from the region. John Palm, MISD Safety Officer, coordinated the location and hospitality for the event, held at the MISD Professional Development Center. The crowd was welcomed by James Huckaby, MISD Director of Risk Management, as well as MISD School Board President Gary Bingham. The MISD School Board, along with district executive staff, has long recognized that Risk Management is an essential element and function within the school district.

Johnny Fontenot and Robert Wagner, of McGriff, Seibels & Williams (MS&W), provided an insurance market update, regarding the factors impacting coverage availability and rates. Additionally, MS&W provided a catered lunch for all in attendance. Robert Bookhammer, of Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Inc., talked about coverage enhancements to P&C policies that provide additional protection, at no cost. Charles "Buddy" Gillenwater, Risk Manager for the City of Mesquite, discussed the benefits of knowing and communicating the Total Cost of Risk (TCoR) for public entities, to all stakeholders within a public entity.

Look for those you know in the accompanying pictures from this very successful educational and networking opportunity. Sponsorships of future TXPRIMA Regional and Hot Topic events are available. Contact any Board Member if you desire to do so!



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www.texasprima.org.

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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.