



texasprima.org  
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association



## Taking the Risk



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Recalling the early years of my involvement with Texas PRIMA when I was much younger, spry and hadn't yet become follically impaired, I wanted to volunteer my assistance to this organization but something held me back. So I took the easier road and did not become an active member, not out of selfishness but more out of insecurity asking myself "What could I offer to make this organization better that it did not have already and how could I make a difference?". Meager contributions or not, in order to continue to operate an organization such as Texas PRIMA, it must rely on every resource and contribution, and yes, every contribution makes a difference. In my early involvement with Texas PRIMA I was afraid to take that risk. How ironic? Famed hockey legend Wayne Gretsky was once quoted as saying, "You will always miss 100% of the shots you don't take". I guess I missed that one.

Fast forward 15 years for what now seems to be a millennium since those days, I now understand the importance of the contributions of all our members who make up the heart of Texas PRIMA. Having the advantage of the "behind the scenes" operations, I can assure you there is nothing magical about its operations and its ability to consistently improve and deliver an excellent product to its members. While serving on the board over these last few years, I have come to the realization what an enormous task and undertaking it is to keep this organization functioning and operating daily.

It cannot be understated how important each contribution from each volunteer, sponsor, exhibitor, presenter and member is to our organization. Now I know everyone has their full time job, however, it is quite impressive to see those who selflessly and continually go above and beyond the "call of duty". A lot of volunteers provide the life blood that makes a difference in delivering our services to our membership and to not only survive, but to thrive; to continue to be viable and relevant in this ever so changing and competitive industry of "risk". The members who tirelessly devote their time and effort to carrying forth the mission of this organization do so because they believe in what they do and what Texas PRIMA stands for. I think everyone understands the dynamics of every member represented in our organization but ultimately we all want the same thing, to succeed in our respective profession within risk management.

Perfection is what Texas PRIMA aspires to achieve, knowing full well this lofty goal will never come to pass. But this aspiration makes us dynamic, strong and keeps this organization in the game and in most cases ahead of the game. That is why we rely on your feedback to continually improve whether that feedback is good, bad or ugly.

So as we head into the second quarter of the year and are in full throttle, rest assured we will bring you a full slate of regional and conference sessions of the highest quality that are relevant and useful to all of our members. The goal is to always raise the bar on our performance as it is the only way to achieve excellence, and to achieve excellence requires everyone's willingness to have skin in the game by taking the risk to commit and provide ideas, whether new or recycled, for the betterment of our organization and profession.

Respectfully,  
Gilbert M. Sanchez  
2015 President

## Welcome New Members

Sophia Canady, CPCU, ARM-P, AIC, AINS, FCLS, City of Fort Worth  
Tawana Kennedy, Dallas ISD  
Debra Kilgore, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD  
Holly King, ATI  
Peter LaMonica, Starr Public Entity  
Ashley Land, City of Grand Prairie  
Frank Marcopolos, SORM  
Telissa Murillo, City of Huntsville  
Miguel Sotelo, City Of Irving  
Kenneth Wamble, Commercial Risk Services  
Thomas Warren, Texas Department of Criminal Justice



## Members on the Move

Congratulations to Belinda D. Raindl, CSRM, CTSBO who received her CSRM designation in February. Belinda is the Coordinator- Risk Management & Records Department for Comal ISD.

## Texas PRIMA Awards Program

The DAY has come! Texas PRIMA is looking for the "Godfathers" of Risk Management. We are seeking nominations that we can't refuse!



*"Someday, and that day may never come, I will call upon you to do a service for me." – Don Corleone*

Texas PRIMA is looking for the "Godfathers" of Risk Management. Yes, we usually say "don't ask me about my business", but "there are negotiations being made that are going to answer all of your questions and solve all of your problems." (That's all I can tell you right now.) Trust us. Submit your nomination(s)

for the goodfellas or gals in our Texas PRIMA family. Make it a powerful story-telling nomination that will catch the eye of the judges. Recognize your PRIMA family for their innovation, leadership and commitment—because you need more than guts to be a good gangster, you need ideas.

Please take the time to nominate a Risk Management Professional for Risk Professional of the Year or Risk Associate of the Year or a Public Entity for the Risk Management Program Achievement Award. The nomination process is easy. Nomination forms and qualifications for all three awards can be found by visiting [www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org). Previous winners and programs can also be found on the website in the Awards Section. Award recipients for Risk Professional and Associate will be announced and recognized during the Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference in Galveston, receive a wall plaque, be recognized in the newsletter, Texas PRIMA Press, recognized on the Texas PRIMA web page and be reimbursed for the conference registration and one night of hotel accommodation costs. Notification of the award will be sent to the award winners' supervisor.

The nomination deadline is September 4, 2015. Any questions concerning the award process can be addressed to Norma Martinez, Chairman of the Awards Committee at [nmartinez@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:nmartinez@sugarlandtx.gov) or call Texas PRIMA at 512-394-0719. See you at the next Texas PRIMA Conference in Galveston on November 8-11, 2015.

Norma Martinez  
Awards Committee Chair

## **Texas PRIMA 26th Annual Conference Scholarship Program**



The scholarship application process for Texas PRIMA's 26th Annual Conference at The Moody Gardens Hotel and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas, November 8-11, 2015 will be here before you know it.

There are many deserving people who may not be aware of the scholarship program Texas PRIMA offers. We are encouraging members to get the word out to any of your public entity colleagues and clients who might qualify. The scholarship program is designed to assist risk management professionals whose public entity might not be able to afford the cost of attending the Annual Conference. Full and partial scholarships will be awarded and may include up to the following:

- Conference Registration Costs
- Costs related to attending the conference, including travel and lodging at the conference hotel
- Complimentary membership in Texas PRIMA through 2016

This will be our fourth year to include scholarship donation opportunities for our sponsors. It has been a huge success and their generosity has enabled us to bring more recipients to the conference than ever before! We look forward to their support again this year and topping last year's recipient numbers. Look for an email blast in mid July with specific details to include the application process. Applications will be accepted July 13 through September 4.

We appreciate your help in spreading the word about the Texas PRIMA 26th Annual Conference and scholarship program.

Donna Parker Stirman  
Conference & Scholarship Chair



## Regional Risk Management Seminars

Our first regional seminar in Irving was a great success with over 70 attendees and a great agenda of presenters! Thanks again to our Irving seminar sponsors, York Risk Services and Roach, Howard, Smith & Barton. Those who attended the seminar left with an abundance of knowledge that they were able to take back to their organizations and entities. Our next regional seminar, set to be held at the City of Austin Learning and Research Center on June 25<sup>th</sup>, will be no different. You want information about medical marijuana? We got it! Are police legal and liability issues more up your alley? We got that too, along with other great topics! Our regional seminars are designed to be a convenient and affordable way to increase your risk management knowledge and provide an opportunity to network with other risk management professionals in your area. Don't miss out! Session details and registration information can be found on the Texas PRIMA website at [www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org).

### Regional Seminar Schedule:

- Austin – June 25<sup>th</sup> (agenda to left)
- Corpus Christi – September 17<sup>th</sup>

John F. Palm III, ARM  
2015 Education Committee Chair

8a – 9a	Registration / Breakfast — sponsored by The Law Office of Ricky D. Green, PLLC
9a – 10a	<b>A Crash Course in the Basics of Cyber Contracting and Liability Issues</b> — Ann E. Greenberg and Todd A. Clark, Walsh Anderson, Gallegos, Green and Treviño, PC
10a – 10:15a	Networking Break
10:15a – 11:15a	<b>What Is Needed For Effective Safety Inspections, Injury/Accident Investigations and Job Hazard Analysis</b> — Leon White, Frost Insurance
11:15a – 11:30a	Networking Break
11:30a– 12:30p	<b>Understanding the Ins and Outs of Medical Marijuana</b> — Ricky Green, The Law Office of Ricky D. Green, PLLC
12:30p – 1:15p	Lunch— sponsored by McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
1:15p – 2:30p	<b>The Three Cs: Certificates / Contracts / Coverage</b> —Susan Golla, McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc. & David Solis, City of Corpus Christi
2:30p – 2:45p	Networking Break
2:45p – 3:45p	<b>Police Use of Force and Other Legal Issues</b> — Ken Casaday, Austin Police Association & Nadia Stewart, Combined Law Enforcement Assn of Texas

## Call for Conference Presentations

The Texas PRIMA Education Committee is currently accepting presentation submissions for its Annual Conference which will be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa & Convention Center in Galveston, Texas, November 8 - 11. Interested presenters are encouraged to submit their presentations for consideration prior to the submission deadline of **June 22, 2015**. Presentations can be submitted via the on-line presentation portal on the Texas PRIMA website at [www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org). For information regarding topic diversity, selection criteria, presentation proposal outlines or for other questions, please review the call for presentations information document also found on the website. Thank you for your time and effort. We look forward to receiving your submissions and seeing you at the Annual Conference in November!

John F. Palm III, ARM  
2015 Education Committee Chair

## Sponsor Highlight



TRISTAR Insurance Group was found by Tom Veale in 1987. Originally named Topa Risk Services, the company began as an insurance program manager and medical malpractice claims administrator. As our service offerings expand to three business operations; property casualty claims management, benefits administration, and managed care services; the organization grew into what is now known as TRISTAR Insurance Group.

Today, we are the nation's largest independent third party claims administrator, empowering more than 1,000 employees in offices throughout the United States. We believe that intellect and ability can be applied to our entire range of risk and benefit services, to creating an opportunity for clients – to improve their bottom line, to fund additional projects and services, or simply to help people feel safe, healthy, and secure.

For example, we helped the City of Dallas realize in excess of \$4 million in annual savings on their Workers' Compensation claims program. The funds saved ultimately benefited the community and the city at large. In another instance, we also helped the City of San Antonio achieved a +20% reduction in paid claims without reducing service to injured workers. As a self-insured institution, these savings went directly to their bottom line. Anecdotal stories such as these are frequently offered at TRISTAR, and we believe doing the right thing works for both businesses and communities. When you engage TRISTAR, together we transform risk into opportunity.

- Largest privately held TPA
- Full Service - P&C, Benefits, and Managed Care
- \$100+ million revenues
- 1,000+ professionals
- Risk Management, Program, Carrier, and Public Agency segments



**A better health care system: It's what we all want. Here's what it looks like to us:**

### **Simplicity**

To us, a better health care system starts with a simpler process, one that lets you see behind the scenes — to find out what a procedure costs before you get it, for example.

### **Focus**

A better health care system is about more than saving money, of course. It's about keeping you healthy.

We're working with doctors, hospitals and health networks to align the economic incentives so everyone's focus stays on your health.

### **Connection**

Finally, we think a better system is one that is connected. The right technology connects you and your health care team seamlessly. And it puts valuable information where it needs to be so you get the right care at the right time.

About 46 million people rely on us to help them make decisions about their health care and their health care spending. Every day, we work to make the system easier and more convenient for our customers.

Our health insurance plans and services include:

- Medical, pharmacy and dental plans
- Life and disability plans
- Medicaid services
- Behavioral health programs
- Medical management

For more information please visit [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com).

## **Temporary Income Benefits**

The legislature very recently passed a bill that will increase the amount of temporary income benefits (TIBs) for the first 26 weeks of disability for some injured workers. The bill was signed by Governor Abbot on May 21, 2015 and will go into effect on September 1, 2015. Under Senate Bill 901 (and companion bill HB 1607), an injured worker who earns less than \$10.00 per hour will be entitled to receive 75% of her or his average weekly wage (AWW) for the first 26 weeks of TIBs. The current law that will expire on September 1, 2015 provides that an injured worker who earns less than \$8.50 per hour is entitled to receive 75% of her or his AWW for the first 26 weeks.

Representative Nicole Collier, a member of the Business and Industry Committee, said during a March hearing that HB 1607 would result in approximately 3,000 injured workers receiving additional TIBs "to help them get through a highly stressful and potentially disastrous financial period." She also said many families couldn't "weather a financial disruption caused by a workplace injury without this increase in temporary income benefits," even if the weekly benefit increase to an individual worker eligible for the higher TIB rate amounts to less than \$20 a week. "Reports suggest that claimants of workplace injuries receive temporary income benefits for an average of seven weeks, and they rarely reach the 26-week limit," Collier told the committee. "On average, the increased rate will result in injured employees seeing an average weekly increase in benefits from \$17 to \$19.98 per week. Now, I know it doesn't sound like a lot, but this can be a meaningful difference for those workers and their families."

The impact the bill would have on insurance costs is negligible, according to the State Office of Risk Management, which prepared a fiscal note indicating an impact of a little less than \$3,000 per year.

Should you have any questions regarding this bill or any other workers' compensation matter, please give us a call or email [questions@rickygreen.com](mailto:questions@rickygreen.com).

*Submitted by the Law Office of Ricky Green, PLLC*

## Texas PRIMA Community Forum Articles & Tips

### Flood Recovery Action Steps - Electrical Equipment/Machinery

The following recommendations were prepared by The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company to assist persons in flood affected areas who own or operate equipment and machinery.

[https://tp.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/flood\\_recovery\\_munichre.pdf](https://tp.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/flood_recovery_munichre.pdf)

### Our Driving Concern: Train-the-Trainer Employer Traffic Safety Workshop

June 25, 8:30 – 12:30 p.m.

\*(Check-in begins at 8:10 a.m.)

[Register](#)

Location: TxDOT Traffic Safety Office

(701 East Main Street, Assembly Room 26, Atlanta, TX 75551)

For more information, contact Lisa R. Robinson, CFLE, NSC TX Employer Traffic Safety Program Manager or call (512)466-7383

### Do you have helpful articles or tips to share with Texas PRIMA members?

Log in to the member's only website and click on Community Forum then Articles and Tips.

### Would you like advice from Texas PRIMA members?

Log in to the member's only website and click on Community Forum then Advice Forum. Check the subscribe box if you would like to be notified when members reply to the post.

## Letter from the Editor

Hello Texas PRIMA family. This is my second newsletter out the door and I am sure you noticed some changes. Since the March newsletter I have spent some time talking and listening to our "family" to gain insight as to what you want to see in a newsletter. We are working diligently to produce the most information and streamlined newsletter possible. With half the year already behind us I can't help but reflect on how much I appreciate and lean on the support of my PRIMA family. I recently spoke to a group of individuals new to Risk Management and encouraged them and I encourage you to connect with other Risk Managers. We have some big changes in front of us as we see more states legalizing marijuana and security breach's on the rise. The community forum is an excellent place to start making those connections. Why spend hours searching for an answer when the answer is at your fingertips. The journey is always more enjoyable when traveled with others than alone. So, if you have questions regarding this newsletter, risk management or even better the New York Yankees contact me, I'd love to hear from you especially about the # 1 short stop for the Yankees.



Christina Ford, CSRM, CTSB

Editor

## **2015 Chapter Sponsors**

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### **Diamond**

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AirMedCare Network Corporation  
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DigiStream Investigations

## **Correspondence**

The Texas PRIMA Press is the official newsletter of Texas PRIMA.

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For information about the chapter, visit the Texas PRIMA website at:  
[www.texasprima.org](http://www.texasprima.org)

## **Communications Committee**

Board Liaison & Newsletter Editor: Christina Ford  
Assistant Editor: Ashley Waggoner  
Website: Renae J Burt

## **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](mailto:info@texasprima.org).

MEMBERS: VISIT THE  
MEMBER'S ONLY WEBSITE TO  
POST IN THE COMMUNITY  
FORUM!

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Let's Begin the Next 25 Years in Galveston, Texas**

Join us in Galveston, Texas at the beautiful Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center November 8-11 for the 2015 annual Texas PRIMA conference where we will be celebrating the beginning of the next 25 years of annual conferences! So mark your calendar today to make sure you do not miss out on this wonderful educational and networking opportunity.

