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Taking Care of Business: The Family Requests Your Presence for the 2015 Texas PRIMA Conference

Are you ready to meet the

President's Message:

“Looking back at Houston and Ahead to Galveston”

The Texas Chapter PRIMA was well represented at the National Conference in Houston this June. It was good to see a lot of familiar faces enjoying the conference sessions as well as the social events. I want to personally thank David Kester who was the point person who coordinated the golf tournament held at Wildcat Golf Club and who was assisted by fellow board members Bill Tarro and Donna Parker Stirman who made this an incredibly successful event. Great team work! The highlight of the social calendar saw Texas PRIMA hold a reception at the Grove which was very well attended. Again, just know how hard your board members work devoting much of their personal time away from family to pull off such great events.

National President Regan Rychetsky invited me to say a few words at a morning general session. I briefly covered how Regan was the one who got me involved in Texas PRIMA and how appropriate that “Lefty was the National President and Pancho was the State President”. All those attending were welcomed and I recapped our chapter's services provided to our membership and our 25th anniversary celebration; a milestone and no small feat. Our recipe for success as a chapter is based on its membership, sponsors and exhibitors. Please know that

Family? Texas PRIMA's 26th Annual Conference and Expo takes place this year from November 8th through the 11th at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center. Our Godfather, Gilbert Sanchez (City of Laredo) is ready to take care of business with you! Pack the cannoli and get ready for some relevant and innovative training sessions, cutting edge risk management products/services and networking.

[Click here](#) for conference highlights and events!

Conference registration includes entrance to all educational sessions and the exhibit hall, plus these events: SUNDAY Welcome Reception ... MONDAY Membership Luncheon, Networking in the Exhibit Hall, Opening Night Reception ... TUESDAY Awards Luncheon, and Sponsor Appreciation Reception. Additional guest tickets may be purchased for the Opening Night Reception (\$65), and Membership or Awards Luncheons (\$50 ea.).

[Register today!](#)

this state chapter has so much to offer its members so please utilize the services we provide.

Now looking forward, were you unable attend the National Conference? I think we have a solution, state conference will be here shortly and our conference is on par with National's with respect to educational sessions and networking opportunities. As we are coming to close to another year, staff and the Board are on full throttle devoting all efforts to make our conference at Galveston's Moody Gardens November 8th -11th yet another great success. Again, we will have four educational tracks that will cover General Risk Management, Employee Benefits, Workers' Compensation and Safety/Claims for a total of 31 sessions. We have excellent speakers as the Keynote will be Jonathan Sprinkles and Patrick Henry Hughes will be our closing speaker. Our membership luncheon will be on Monday with the Exhibit Hall opening directly after lunch. Later that evening will be our Opening Night Reception.

I implore our membership to get the word out and register and register today!!!! If not, I will send some goomba's to remind you not to disrespect the Don!

Respectfully,
"Don" Gilberto, 2015 President

Regional Risk Management Seminar (Corpus Christi)

Do you want to learn about current topics in public risk management in Texas? Think about those issues affecting public entities or that have been in the public eye recently. If you had to make a list of the top five, the list would likely include these three:

- Post-event response (think recent floods in Texas)
- Police liability issues (hello, body cameras!)
- Benefit plan issues (ACA and the same-sex marriage ruling)

What if you could go to one place to get information on all three of these, as well as some "bread and butter" issues like reducing workers' comp costs and accident

Social Media



Welcome New Members:

Kevin Nugent, Spring Branch
ISD Police Department

Joanna M. Tollenaere, Roach
Howard Smith & Barton

Members on the Move:

Congratulations to Donna
James Spruce on her new
position as Risk Program
Manager for the Port of Corpus
Christi Authority.

Letter from the Editor:

It is hard to believe that 2015 is almost over. The year has brought so many changes to the Risk Management landscape it has been a challenge to keep up. To help with the task of keeping up with these changes, Texas PRIMA has two professional development and networking opportunities scheduled in the coming months. On September 17th at our

prevention? Here at Texas PRIMA we have just what you are looking for. Make plans to attend our last regional seminar of the year in Corpus Christi September 17th. We have a great line-up of sessions planned that includes all of the above-mentioned topics. It's also a great opportunity to network with other risk management professionals facing the same challenges you are facing. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, so come join us in Corpus. We look forward to seeing you there! ([click here to register](#))

Best Practices:

A Guide to Restroom Access for Transgender Workers

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all employers under its jurisdiction provide employees with sanitary and available toilet facilities, so that employees will not suffer the adverse health effects that can result if toilets are not available when employees need them. This publication provides guidance to employers on best practices regarding restroom access for transgender workers. OSHA's goal is to assure that employers provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees. ([to read the full article click here](#))



Sponsor Highlight: AS&G

AS&G Claims Administration, Inc. is the nation's premier provider of claims administration services to the public risk sector. For 32 years, they have been a single source provider of workers' compensation, general liability, automobile liability, professional liability and property claims expertise to local governments and municipal organizations. They have administered hundreds of self-insured and fully-insured, workers' compensation, property and casualty programs for more than two hundred employers.

AS&G has some of the most qualified and experienced adjusters and supervisors in

September 17th at our Regional Risk Management Seminar in Corpus Christi and then November 8 – 11th at the annual conference in Galveston you will have the opportunity to listen to great educational sessions and talk with others deep in the trenches. As a Board we strive to bring you the most current information on the latest challenges facing our “family.” Looking forward to seeing you all in Galveston.

the industry. Their adjusters, supervisors and management team know how to separate claims that should be paid from those that should be denied. They know how to calculate realistic reserve values and how to create adequate documentation in anticipation of litigation, and audits.

To complement their adjusting they have developed a proprietary claim administration software and computer services that are the most advanced in the industry. AS&G has 7 offices in Texas and 17 offices nationwide that service the Gulf Coast, South East and Mid-Atlantic states. Their goal is to reduce clients’ costs through proactive claims handling and experienced decision making. AS&G’s dedication is to deliver quality service that exceeds all expectations.

AS&G is a company experienced and large enough to meet their clients’ unique and nationwide needs, and yet they are also small enough to truly value their clients as a cost-control, upward-mobility partner.

Emergency Preparedness

A crisis is not the time to collect information – it is the time to ACT on the information you have gathered prior to the event. Rick Rescorla, the man responsible for corporate security for a large World Trade Center company, insisted that employees practice evacuations every three months, even though those practice drills were resented by high-powered executives. But those rehearsals were vital in saving many lives—because employees were prepared to respond when the World Trade Centers were attacked.

Planning ahead for a disaster is indispensable.

Gathering crucial information is imperative so that officials and emergency responders can manage a crisis most effectively. The information should be assembled ahead of time and contained in one place, where it is portable and easy to access.

BELFOR Property Restoration provides complimentary Crisis Response Boxes, in an effort to help entities be prepared as much as possible. The basic framework for filling those boxes is based on documentation from school officials who dealt with crises in the past, and what they wished they had on hand to do so more effectively. *(to read the full article [click here](#))*

Workers Comp

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. *(to read the full article [click here](#))*