

PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

April 2021

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President's Message



For the last year, we have all been living in a circus. Within Risk and Insurance, we face challenges every single day that challenge our entities with new issues. We must find creative ways to ensure that our entities are protected against all levels of risks. We all have “clowns” in our offices that seemingly disrupt the work and find ways to challenge us. Furthermore, most offices have “acrobats,” who feel they can walk tightropes high in the sky and without any safety precautions, believing themselves to be invincible. There are also the “lion tamers”, whose job is to ensure that all the lions ready to burst through the doors are constrained within their limits. Finally, all offices have a “ringmaster”: the one individual who is at the center of it all making sure the entire show goes off without a hitch.

Going to circuses, I remember little about the ringmaster. I was into the clowns, the elephants, lions, and those high-flying acrobats. While the ringmaster was present, they were of little importance to me as a spectator. Is that not how we feel in the Risk and Insurance business? Our work occurs behind the scenes, protecting every inch of the organization. We provide safety services, ensure property is insured, administer health programs and make sure injured workers are treated properly. We work to tame the lions so that our entities can provide services to our communities.

The movie, *The Greatest Showman*, contains many themes that we can learn and grow from to grow as professionals. In one memorable line from the movie, a character says “Trust me, they don’t know it yet, but they’re going to love you.” This is what we do serving our entities. Others in our organizations may think that Risk Management and Insurance professionals don’t do much, but when we are needed, they love us. In another quote from the movie, a character says, “A man’s station is only limited by his imagination.” I encourage each of you to examine your job and find ways to better care for and serve your entities. Our potential influence within our entities is unlimited. Together, we can discover new methods to save money, protect assets and transfer risks. What can truly make a difference, however, is when we allow our imaginations to take hold and to transform Risk and Insurance in our entities to another level.

There is one song in *The Greatest Showman*, “This is Me,” that my youngest child sings all the time. While my job titles may change, and my duties may shift, I am a public servant who takes care of employees in my entity. I love, care, cry, laugh, show compassion, carry resolve for, and protect my entity and its employees with all that I have. Not only is this a calling, but this is who I am. I have a desire to help others. Each and every one of us are called to serve. Without those of us in Risk and Insurance, our police officers, fire fighters, teachers, custodians, clerks, and engineers, as well as employees from solid waste, parks and recreation, cafeterias, water treatment and sewage, facilities, and others will be unable to do what they are called to do. We serve our communities.

If you haven’t figured it out yet, the theme for this year’s conference is **Ringmasters of Risk**. We are planning for the conference to take place in Galveston, TX at the wonderful Moody Gardens on November 7-10, 2021. For those that cannot make it in person, the Texas PRIMA board is making plans to have a virtual option in addition to being in person. Last year’s virtual conference was a hit and we didn’t want to lose that ability, so this year we will have the best of both

worlds. I cannot wait to see the entire Texas PRIMA family as we gather for networking and continuing education. It will be heartwarming to see old friends and make new ones.

Till then friends and family, be safe and take care.

Jason Hardy
2021 Texas PRIMA President



Texas PRIMA Educational Programs

The show must go on! We have some exciting news for 2021 for our members concerning the platforms used to provide educational opportunities for Texas PRIMA members. Beginning this year and hopefully every year to come, we will offer a virtual option for our Risk Management Seminars and Annual Conference. The Texas PRIMA Education committee members met in January, and we had a lot of great ideas for this year's topics and some fun networking events that we are planning for our membership. Our members have spoken, and we will continue to host Texas PRIMA "Coffee Talks" this year to help our ringmasters of risk stay connected! After all, we can get through anything as long as we are "together," even if, for now, it is just virtually!

Here is the current listing of educational and networking events in the upcoming months:

Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Webinar: [Texas Freeze Damage & Storms to Come: A Guide to Preserving and Maximizing Insurance Coverage](#)

Who's on First: FEMA or Insurance?

An unprecedented polar vortex caused service interruption and property damage throughout Texas and southern states. You may be wondering, does your loss exceed your insurance deductible? Can you recover your loss from FEMA? What information should you be reviewing and collecting for both insurance and FEMA recovery? These and other issues are critical in accelerating the recovery process and maximize recovery. Join Sharon Pisko Wolfe, CPA & Vince Morgan to find out the answers to these questions and be ready to ask specific questions affecting your entity.

Friday, May 14, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Webinar: [Workers Comp Legislative Updates](#)

Members will learn about new bills and legislation that will impact and create changes to the current process. Ricky Green will cover organizational changes to the Texas Department of Insurance-Workers Compensation division, and provide an update on where we stand with COVID-19 claims and litigation.

Webinars are free for Texas PRIMA members. Must be a current member of Texas PRIMA to register. If you missed any of our prior sessions, please remember they are all recorded and available to view in the Member's Only section at texasprima.org.

Friday, April 23, 2021

[Virtual Risk Management Seminar "Transitioning Back to Normal"](#)

Topics on the COVID-19 vaccine, claims and challenges and return-to-work will be on the agenda that is coming soon!

Seminars are free for members and \$25 for non-members.

We want to hear from you! Please let us know if you have specific topics you would like to learn more about this year. Also, do you have a story to share with members about an obstacle you overcame or a valuable lesson learned? Let us know, and we can add to a coffee talk or even create a panel discussion around that topic for our members. You never know how your story can inspire, inform and help someone who is going through something similar. We need each other and need these opportunities to connect now more than ever!

A big thank you to the members of the 2021 Education Committee, we know that you are all extremely busy, and we appreciate you taking the time to contribute your ideas and talents for Texas PRIMA members.

James Alvarez, Travis County
Mary Broihier, Health and Human Services
Cary Erickson, Jefferson County
Jason Hardy, City of Irving
Melissa Ledesma, City of Sugarland
Iris Martinez, San Jacinto River Authority
Leslie Milvo, City of Austin
Charles Smith, City of Houston
Martha Valderamma, Port of Corpus Christi
Robert Warren, Trinity River Authority
Reno Wilkins, City of Houston
Retha Youell, City of College Station
Izzy Zandany, Austin ISD

Belinda Raindl
Education/Networking Committee Chair

Public Risk Management Awareness Day



March 1st marked the third annual Public Risk Management Awareness Day and although it was quite different from last year, the Port of Corpus Christi was still able to celebrate the day! Remote working didn't stop the Port from recognizing the Risk Management Department and Risk Professionals by creating an [Animoto video presentation](#). The video highlighted several governmental entities that went to the Texas State Capital and personally watched the House Bill pass. It also highlighted Risk Management staff and other Port employees celebrate the day. It was shared throughout the Port and on the Port's social media platforms. The Public Risk Management Awareness logo was replicated on yummy cookies, which were distributed to each Port department along with a small gift for each Port employee. Looking forward to next year!

Donna James-Spruce, A.R.M.
Director of Risk Management, Port of Corpus Christi

Our Leadership Compass

2020 has truly dropped us off in an unknown place, leaving us to search for our personal compass. We have demands coming from every direction as a parent, spouse, co-worker, leader and community contributor. More than ever, one decision can have a domino effect on so many levels. The pressure to make the right decision is so critical. The consideration for our health and welfare is certainly top of mind. The mental fatigue of Covid19 coupled with our desire to return to normalcy sometimes seem at odds. Yet, every day, we are still in the driver's seat and choosing to move forward. How do we meet these expectations successfully? ... ([read the full article](#))

Patricia Bell, Principal | Lighthouse Resource Group

Situational Awareness, A 'Separate Dimension of Hazard Control'

As an emergency management instructor in the U.S. Air Force, Cory Worden taught the importance of staying vigilant against potential attacks, chemical/biological weapon exposure and other battlefield dangers.

Working in the health care industry after his military career, Worden realized that many of the same lessons he once taught also applied to helping keep workers in this field on their toes and alert – and ultimately safe. One of the most significant lessons he learned: Standard operating procedures, regulatory compliance, checklists and other preparations are powerless if people don't react when it's necessary. This means developing and fostering situational awareness is crucial....

"An important element of on-the-job situational awareness is learning to identify hazards, understanding what controls are available, knowing what controls to use and then acting on that information, one expert said" ... ([read the full article](#))

Safety+Health magazine

Members On The Move

Congratulations **Robert C. Warren**, CRM, IPMA-SCP on his new position as Manager, Risk, Safety and Facilities at Trinity River Authority.

Art Alvarez recently retired from the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool.

Welcome New Members

Ron Carter, CEO - RxBridge
Cailin Cronin, HR and Risk Management Coordinator - City of New Braunfels
Brian Haney, Safety Specialist - City of Victoria
Christina Prewitt, Risk Specialist - City of Denton
Jose Rivera, Benefits Supervisor - Donna ISD
Deby Skawinski, J.D., Deputy Director, Risk & Compliance - City of Denton

Keep Texas PRIMA members informed by sending your "Members on the Move" updates to our newsletter, PRIMA Press. Tell us about your new position, promotion or designation. Send submissions to info@texasprima.org.

Sponsor Highlight



McGriff is proud to be a Platinum sponsor of Texas PRIMA. McGriff Insurance Services, a division of Truist, is the 6th largest insurance brokerage firm in the world with over \$2 billion in annual revenue. The Truist family has over 55,000 employees and over \$470 billion in assets. The McGriff Texas operation is the largest provider of insurance and risk management services to Public Entities in Texas.

With offices in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio, McGriff specializes in providing Commercial Property & Casualty, Employee Benefits, and Risk Management consulting services for Texas Public Entities. The staff dedicated to Public Entity accounts has a broad range of experience including former Public Entity risk managers and Texas PRIMA board members who have "walked in the shoes" of Texas public entity risk professionals.

The experienced professionals at McGriff take advantage of relationships throughout the global insurance marketplace to obtain the best coverage available at the best price for our Public Entity clients, even in the most challenging market conditions. McGriff utilizes in-depth knowledge, experience, and resources to help our clients find solutions for a full range of risk management and benefits needs. The goal of McGriff is to establish long-term partnerships with our clients by providing top-notch service, inspiring customer confidence and trust.

McGriff congratulates the success of Texas Chapter PRIMA as the premier organization providing education, training, and resources for Public Entity risk professionals and we appreciate the opportunity to be a long time partner of this organization.



AS&G Claims Administration, Inc. is the nation's premier provider of claims administration services to the public risk sector. Since 1983, 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. 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 expectations.

Thank you Sponsors!

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Texas Political Subdivisions | Midwest Employers Casualty | Safety National | USI Insurance | Injury Management Organization, Inc.

Silver

Munich RE | TASB Risk Management Fund | TML-IRP | Travelers | Claims Administrative Services | Select Physical Therapy | Trinity Review Services | CCMSI | Athens Administrators | Lytx | Commercial Risk Services | Origami Risk | Asperta, Ltd. | Novare | myMatrixx | FastMed Urgent Care | Medical Equation | Charlesworth Consulting

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