

PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org

Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

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I spy...Change Agents!

Texas PRIMA family, we are a little more than halfway to the annual conference, and we are looking forward to greeting all mission ready attendees!

I hope that you have taken advantage of the educational opportunities that have been provided thus far. There are more opportunities coming! Most recently we hosted our third annual virtual summit, *The Change Agent Experience*, to get you geared up for our annual conference.

Speaking of the annual conference, our [call for presentations](#) is now open, and we hope that you will engage by submitting a session for consideration. Submissions are due June 23rd. Conference registration will open August 1st, so watch for those details as well. Additionally, we would like to recognize and honor you or a program you've implemented, so plan to submit an [award nomination](#) for consideration.

That leads me to an honorable mention. Your Texas PRIMA has done it again! The national PRIMA awarded Texas PRIMA the 2023 Chapter Recognition Award for its 2022 Member Engagement Strategy; then, PRIMA awarded Texas PRIMA the 2024 Chapter Recognition Award for its educational programming in 2023; and this year, PRIMA awarded Texas PRIMA the 2025 Chapter Recognition Award for the Chapter Exchange Program we developed and successfully executed 2024-2025!

You are in the right place at the right time. I encourage you to become involved in the various offerings throughout the year and to plan to participate in the fullest at the annual conference. Plan to moderate a conference session and let others get to know you. And in the [Texas PRIMA members only community](#), add your photo to your profile and complete your bio there.

I very much look forward to seeing you folks in Galveston November 9th – 12th in your agent attire! Until next time...

Jamee Higgins, CRM
2025 Texas PRIMA President



June is National Safety Month

Observed annually in June, National Safety Month is a time to focus on safety in the workplace, at home and in the community. How does your entity recognize or celebrate National Safety Month? We want to hear what your entity does to recognize National Safety Month, so be sure to share on the Texas PRIMA community forum!



The Summer Heat is Upon Us

During extremely hot and humid weather, your body's ability to cool itself is challenged. When the body heats too rapidly to cool itself properly, or when too much fluid or salt is lost through dehydration or sweating, body temperatures rise and you or someone you care about may experience a heat-related illness. It is important to know the symptoms of extreme heat exposure and the appropriate responses. [Click Here](#) for some great information and heat safety tips from the National Weather Service.



Seeking all Expert Agent Presenters

Attention, Risk Management Operatives! The Texas PRIMA is seeking mission-ready agents to step forward and submit their session proposals for the 2025 Annual Conference...a high-stakes operation that will take place November 9-12 in Galveston, Texas. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to share your expertise and insights with the best in the business...risk management professionals and industry leaders from across the state. This is your chance to help shape the future of risk management while elevating your visibility, recognition, and credibility in the industry. The deadline to submit proposals is June 23rd, so don't delay - [click here](#) to submit your presentation proposal today!



Annual Awards Program

Are you a risk management spymaster? Are you the agency's best kept secret or holding classified intel on a mission-critical program that could revolutionize the risk management field? If so, Texas PRIMA is activating a covert call for nominations. It's time to unmask the unsung heroes of risk - whether it's you or a fellow agent of change. Submit your dossier for one of the following elite recognitions:

Risk Professional of the Year Award recognizes a master strategist who operates with precision, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the field of risk management and insurance.

Rising Star Award reserved for a promising recruit - 2 to 7 years in the mission field, who has already shown signs of becoming a future legend. Leadership potential, achievement, and stealth-level skill are key.

Risk Management Program Achievement Award is for a groundbreaking operation - be it a project, program, or tool that has enhanced the safety, efficiency and success of a public entity. Creativity and impact are the mission parameters.

Operatives selected for the ***Risk Professional of the Year*** and ***Rising Star*** awards will receive:

- Top-clearance access (complimentary conference registration)
- Secure lodging (one-night hotel accommodations)

For full intel and to file your nomination, [click here](#).



Education Update

Tuesday, June 17th, 9am-10am

[Emergency Response Series Part 2: It's Go Time! What a Public Entity Risk Manager Needs to Know During an Emergency Webinar](#)

Tuesday, July 22nd, 9am-10am

[Emergency Response Series Part 3: Post Mission Lessons](#)

November 9-12 – [Texas PRIMA Annual Conference \(Galveston, TX\)](#)

Registration opens August 1, 2025.

Don't forget that recordings of our webinars are in your [Community](#) under the Resources header.

Members on the Move



- Congratulations to Tina Paquet on her retirement after 39 years with the City of Houston! Tina also served as Texas PRIMA President in 2003.
- Kaltrina Minick recently accepted a new position as Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Director for the City of Port Neches. Congratulations, Kaltrina!
- This past February, Dee Dee Vargas received a promotion and now serves as City of College Station's Risk Manager. Congratulations, Dee Dee!
- After more than 20 years in the public sector, Meredith Cerny left the Port of Corpus Christi to further her career in the private industry. Best wishes to Meredith in her new endeavor!
- Congratulations to Texas PRIMA's Immediate Past President, Norma Martinez, for earning her Associate in Risk Management designation!



- Jennifer Callan, General Counsel for Texas PRIMA, Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP
- Thomas Faulkner, DBA Candidate, SPHR, LSSBB, Director of Human Resources, City of Kenedy
- Jason Hartgraves, Assistant Chief of Police & Emergency Management, Dallas Area Rapid Transit
- Sandra Rodriguez, HR/Risk Manager, City of Huntsville
- Jeffrey Snyder, Assistant Director, Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool



April Member Spotlight

***Cari Vega*, Safety Specialist with City of Arlington**

Cari has worked for the City of Arlington Human Resources Department for 10 years, focusing on FMLA and workers compensation; in 2020 she moved into the risk management division serving as a Safety Specialist. Her favorite part of her job is to find solutions that make employee jobs safer, this is for her the most satisfying aspect of her job. She firmly believes “there is no innovation without risk”, words of wisdom she often shares with her team. Cari is currently pursuing a safety certification and hopes to start her master’s degree studies in Human Resources soon.



May Member Spotlight

***Candace Mora*, Risk Management Specialist with City of San Marcos**

Candace joined the City of San Marcos Risk Management team in November 2023. Although new to the industry, she embraces its challenges and complexities with resilience and determination. Candace states that she enjoys problem-solving and the fluid nature of her work, as always being “kept on her toes” makes her days anything but ordinary. Candace attributes her love of risk management to the amazing mentorship and positive workplace dynamics at the City of San Marcos. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public health and hopes to earn a risk management designation in the next few years.



June Member Spotlight

Fernando Hernandez, Risk & Safety Manager with City of Austin

Fernando joined the Risk Management team in January 2025, and although he is new to the City of Austin, he is an experienced risk manager, having started his career in risk management in 2009. Over the years, Fernando has had the opportunity to work across various areas of risk, including employee safety, claims management, workers' compensation, and risk mitigation planning. He states, *"Every decision has the potential to prevent harm, reduce costs, and support essential community services."* He finds that risk management is *"incredibly fulfilling when you identify risks early, implement solutions, and realize those efforts translating into a safer, more resilient organization."*



Quarterly Board Tip

This quarter's Board Tip comes from our Texas PRIMA President, Jamee Higgins. *In every aspect of your life and in your job, behave and lead as you desire others to do.*



Letter From the Editor

Thank you for reading the latest edition of the Texas PRIMA Press newsletter. I hope you have 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. As we close out this newsletter, I leave you with this quote from Jimmy Johnson: "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

*Mandy Riske, ARM
Texas PRIMA Press Editor
Texas PRIMA President-Elect
mriske@sanmarcostx.gov*

Sponsor Highlight



Our mission is to provide the highest quality claims management services to our clients. We are committed to a long-term investment in the continual improvement of our products to ensure the best value for our clients and a strong, secure, and growing organization for our employees, shareholders, and business partners.



At Marsh McLennan, we believe the best expertise is well-rounded. So to help you meet every challenge with confidence, we bring distinct strengths on multiple fronts.



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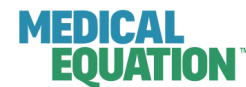
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