

2027 Board of Directors Candidates



Diane Ilenstine

Director of Pool Administration
Texas Water Association Risk Management Fund (TWARMF)

3 years in pooling
3 years in current position
Professional certification(s): MS-RMI, ARM, AIC

Please describe your experience with pooling organizations or associations. Specify offices held, board service, committee involvement, etc.

I work closely with the boards and associations with both Texas Water Association Risk Management Fund (TWARMF) and Texas Council Risk Management Fund (TCRMF). I also serve on the Alliance Board on behalf of TWARMF.

Do you have any experience with other professional associations or service organizations that would assist you in your AGRiP responsibilities?

I was the prior Director of SMART Advantage Retro Group in Washington state. SMART was the sponsoring association for the retail group.

What would you consider to be the most significant issues facing public entity pooling?

The most significant threats facing public entity pooling include cyber exposures and ransomware, including artificial intelligence, erosion or threat of erosion of governmental immunity and nuclear verdicts and litigation costs.

Is there any additional information you'd like to share with those voting in the election, such as what you bring to AGRiP and how you would help promote the interests of public entity pooling?

I bring a wealth of knowledge from multiple business units and sectors that include working for insurers, pooling and large corporations, managing programs with strategic decision-making processes.



Mary Beth Woods

Executive Director
Public Employer Risk Management Association, Inc. (PERMA)

25+ years in pooling
4.5 years in current position
Professional certification(s): Certified Public Accountant

Please describe your experience with pooling organizations or associations. Specify offices held, board service, committee involvement, etc.

I currently serve on the AGRiP Board of Directors, as well as AGRiP's Membership Practices and Audit Committees. I previously chaired the New York State Task Force on Group Self-Insurance and served for several years on the Board of the New York State Compensation Insurance Rating Board.

Do you have any experience with other professional associations or service organizations that would assist you in your AGRiP responsibilities?

Previously, I spent more than twenty years with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, where I held a variety of leadership and regulatory positions, including Executive Director. Throughout my tenure, I was closely involved in the oversight of Group Self-Insurance and Individual Self-Insurance programs across New York State. In that capacity, my role was not only to administer and enforce regulatory requirements, but also to support the effective operation of these programs by working collaboratively with stakeholders, providing guidance, addressing emerging issues and helping ensure that self-insurance remained a viable and well-managed option for eligible employers. This work included direct engagement with the New York Self-Insurers Association, the Group Self-Insurers Association of New York and their respective boards of directors and governing bodies.

What would you consider to be the most significant issues facing public entity pooling?

Two of the most significant issues facing public entity pooling are the evolving role of artificial intelligence and changing member dynamics. Artificial intelligence has the potential to reshape how pools and their members operate by improving efficiency, streamlining administrative processes, enhancing data analysis and supporting faster decision-making. At the same time, adoption will likely vary widely among public entities. Some members may move quickly, using technology such as drones or other tools to improve public-facing services and emergency response. Others may be slower to adopt because of budget constraints, staffing limitations or limited internal expertise. AI will also affect staffing models and may change the types of risks public entities face. Pools will need to understand these shifts, manage their own use of AI responsibly and help members navigate both the opportunities and risks associated with adoption.

Changing member dynamics are equally important. Many public entities are facing an aging workforce, retirements among experienced leaders and the loss of institutional knowledge about the value of pooling. New leaders may not have the same history with the pooling model or the same understanding of shared

risk, long-term stability, service offerings and culture. At the same time, budget pressures can make purchasing decisions more transactional and focused on short-term price rather than long-term value. This creates an important challenge for pools: we must continue to educate, engage and build trust with a new generation of public entity leaders while clearly demonstrating why pooling remains a stable, strategic and member-focused alternative.

Is there any additional information you'd like to share with those voting in the election, such as what you bring to AGRiP and how you would help promote the interests of public entity pooling?

I believe my background as a regulator of pooling programs gives me a practical and valuable perspective that will continue to benefit AGRiP. Having overseen complex self-insurance and pooling structures, I understand both the importance of strong oversight and the need to support pools in operating effectively, responsibly and sustainably. In addition, as a CPA, I bring a strong financial perspective that can support thoughtful discussion around governance, risk, accountability and long-term financial stability. I believe this combination of regulatory, operational and financial experience has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to AGRiP's Board and its continued work on behalf of the pooling community.