

Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP)

NEWS RELEASE

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Geoffrey Beauchamp, Esq. Recipient of 2014 AGRiP Award for Excellence in Service

Geoffrey L. Beauchamp, Esq., General Counsel of the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust and Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust, was awarded the 2014 Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) Award for Excellence in Service during AGRiP's Spring Governance and Leadership Conference in San Francisco, California on March 11, 2014.

Geoff is being honored for his instrumental role in advancing the Association's mission to effectively advocate for the intergovernmental risk pooling community, including recent actions that saved pools and the local governments they represent millions of dollars. Through his role as Chair of the AGRiP Health Pool Resource Group, he has put his commitment to developing an expert understanding of national health policy issues affecting public entity risk pools and their members to work in very practical and tangible ways.

In 2013, Geoff identified a risk created by proposed regulations that, if left unaddressed, could have exposed public sector health benefit pools to a fee rightly intended for traditional health plans. Geoffrey led a collaborative effort for AGRiP to raise its voice on behalf of pools, through both written comment and oral testimony. As a result of this initiative, which was joined by the National League of Cities, the final IRS regulations adopted AGRiP's recommended language, assuring public sector health pools would not be liable for this fee.

"We estimate that the IRS exemption from the Health Insurance Provider Fee will save our pool annually between \$2.5 million and \$4 million. For approximately thirty health pools nationwide, that is an estimated savings of between \$75 million and \$120 million each year," Rick Lee, Trust Administrator of the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust and Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust. "These are real taxpayer dollars, saved through pooling. We are proud of Geoff's work on behalf of the pooling community."

According to Jenny Emery, Executive Director of AGRiP, "Geoff's leadership on this and other issues of tremendous importance to public entity health pools and the members they serve is exactly the kind of 'excellence in service' anticipated when the AGRiP Excellence Awards were conceived. We owe thanks to Geoff, all of the AGRiP Health Pool Resource Group members, and others who volunteer their time through AGRiP; it is through them that we are able to make a difference.

The Delaware Valley Insurance Trust and Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust are regional risk sharing pools providing property and liability coverage, and health and dental insurance benefits, respectively, to participating members in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP) is the premiere national membership organization for public entity risk and benefits pools in North America, and beyond. As the recognized authority, AGRiP promotes pooling as a practical extension of local government's obligation to be a good steward of public funds. AGRiP provides a forum for intergovernmental issues of mutual interest in the administration and operation of self-funded and group insurance purchasing programs, and other group programs associated with the funding and operation of intergovernmental risk and benefit pools.

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