



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURETY BOND PRODUCERS

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NASBP SELECTS 2017-2018 OFFICERS

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP) has elected Howard Cowan, Principal of Acrisure, LLC dba Cowan-Hill Bond Agency, in Lubbock, Texas, as the 2017-2018 NASBP President.

At the NASBP Annual Meeting held last month in Boca Raton, FL, Cowan stated that during his presidency he plans to focus on furthering the Association's well-established advocacy efforts with government officials. Cowan said, "NASBP must continue its political involvement." "Our fate is tied to the needs of our clients and their particular economies; their points of interest very quickly become our points of interest," he added.

Cowan stated he also plans to use the Association's current communication vehicles to describe how surety is a must for good business and to help address many government officials' and the public's lack of knowledge of and understanding about surety. "Our product is under attack from alternative products and from politicians who are not familiar with how we add value," Cowan said. "That attitude is in spite of the fact that year in and year out we pay approximately one billion dollars to either finish construction projects or to honor obligations that have been guaranteed with our bonds," he said.

Cowan's initiatives especially are timely, since federal and state leaders are contemplating ways to address needed infrastructure improvements, said Mark H. McCallum, NASBP's Chief Executive Officer. "Under Cowan's leadership, the Association can proactively take steps to shape the image of the surety product and to change the misconceptions of the product by thousands at a critical moment," McCallum said.

In addition, Cowan said he plans to expand upon the Association's support of the surety industry's workforce efforts. Cowan said, "The industry must meet the challenges of appealing to younger generations and of recruiting and educating quality talent." "NASBP's 5-15 Leadership Committee, open to people who have been in the industry at least five years but no more than 15, is a positive and impactful step," he added.

Cowan's 44-year career in the surety industry began in 1973, when he joined the Safeco Surety Department in Dallas as an underwriter for three years. Afterward, he spent two years as a Regional Surety Manager in Safeco's Nashville office. He returned to Texas in 1977 and worked as an agent with Republic Hogg Robinson. In 1987 he started his own agency.

Also, NASBP elected Robert E. Shaw as NASBP First Vice President. Shaw is President of Skillings Shaw & Associates, Inc. in Lewiston, ME. John N. Bustard was elected as NASBP Second Vice President. Bustard is Executive Vice President of King & Neel, Inc. in Honolulu, HI. Mark Munekawa was elected NASBP Third Vice President. Munekawa is Senior Vice President of Surety of Woodruff-Sawyer & Co. in San Francisco, CA. In addition, Lynne W. Cook will serve as NASBP Immediate Past President. Cook is Senior Vice President of Early, Cassidy & Schilling, LLC in Rockville, MD.

The NASBP Executive Committee is comprised of the officers listed above and three Ex Officio Members, who represent the NASBP Directors-At-Large, Regional Directors, and the 5-15 Leadership Committee. Dedi A. Belis of Marsh & McLennan Agency-Florida Region in Palm Beach Gardens, FL was elected to represent the Directors-At-Large. Jill K. Tucker of Cory, Tucker & Larrowe, Inc. in Metairie, LA was elected to represent the Regional Directors. Monica Donatelli of IMA Inc. in Overland Park, KS was elected to represent the 5-15 Leadership Committee.

Founded in 1942, the National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP) is the association of and resource for surety bond producers and allied professionals. NASBP members specialize in providing surety bonds for construction contracts and other purposes to companies and individuals needing the assurance offered by surety bonds.