



**Risk and
Insurance
Management
Society, Inc.®**

RIMS NEWS NOVEMBER 2001

THANKS for all of the DOOR PRIZES. We had so many that everyone went home with something and we have some things left. Those items will be used for door prizes for some of the next regular meetings. After calling all over town on Friday and Monday prior to the Fall Conference begging for door prizes, everyone came through.

If anyone who brought door prizes has been left off of the list, please add your name in pencil and understand that we really appreciate your donations, continued support and participation in our RIMS events.

Thanks to: Administaff, Crawford & Company, Crawford Surveillance, GENEX, Wisenberg, Corvel, ACE/ESIS, AIG, BJ Services, Cambridge, The Houston Chronicle, Sheryl Bittick, John L Wortham & Son, RIMKUS, The Woodlands, + _____.

Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS) Fall Conference

October 26, 2001 - Golf Outing

- Hole in One – No winner (Lockton, the sponsor of the Hole in One, held a drawing - the winner of a \$50.00 Pappas gift certificate was Paul Remson, B. J. Services)
- First Place Golf Team – \$100.00 each - Pat Mulcahy, RSKCo Services; Chris Triggs, Kaiser Aluminum; Kelly Jackson, InPhoto; Gary Hightower, ACE USA and Bob Harper;
- Second Place Golf Team - \$50.00 each – John Overhultz, ESIS/ACE USA; Maria Jacoby, Crawford & Company; Connie Scott, GENEX and Colleen Cummings, NCI Building Systems
- Third Place Golf Team \$25.00 each – Diane Kufert, GENEX; Bill Willrodt, Cunningham Lindsey; Phil Glasgow, GENEX and Dwayne Stumple
- Last Place Golf Team – Julie Jackson, Dynegy; David Barnett, ESIS/ACE USA and Susan Bishop, John L. Wortham & Son
- Closest to the Pin – Women – \$50.00, Mary Botkin, AON
- Closest to the Pin – Men - \$50.00, ??
- Longest Drive – Women – \$50.00, Cindi Slaughter, American Ref-Fuel
- Longest Drive – Men – \$50.00, Phil Glasgow, GENEX

RIMS November Program

November's speaker is John Frank Berardi, Regional Sales Director, Technology Management Group, Milwaukee, WI. He will speak on "Enterprise Risk Management as applied by Equipment Maintenance Management Programs. Or how a Risk Manager can save its Organization up to 20% on maintenance contracts in a hard market and receive a gold star."

John started in the Equipment Maintenance Management field in 1981. He has extensive experience in this industry. He was in the Risk Management Division for CNA. His position marketed and started up large accounts in the US. He has worked for "CNA and TMG" for the last 19 years. He was doing a component of Enterprise Risk Management before anyone called it that.

He has provided programs to over 3,000 banking locations. Some of his clients are University of Florida and Florida State University, Auburn and the State of Mississippi.

Reservation Deadline is Monday prior to the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Please send your response by e-mail to houstonrims@earthlink.net or FAX the meeting notice to Colleen Cummings at 281.897.7788. If plans change at the last minute call if possible, but by all means **COME TO THE MEETING.** We need the count so the hotel will have chairs and food for everyone.



*Published by The Houston Chapter
of the Risk & Insurance
Management Society, Inc.*

From the President's Desk

We are kicking off the Risk Manager of the year program and invite everyone to participate. We have mailed out the applications and they are due back by November 30, 2001. We are looking for help from our Broker friends for nominations. Please get your nominations in on time and if you have any questions call Mike Tawney.

The Fall Conference was a big success.

I would like to personally thank the sponsors:

Diamond Sponsors

John L Wortham
Zurich
ESIS/ACE USA/ ACE International
AON
Marsh
Frank Crystal & Company
Lockton

Beverage Cart Sponsor
Crawford & Company
GENEX

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GAB Robins North America, Inc
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Bronze

Van Dyke Rankin & Company
Bowen, Miclette & Britt

I would also like to thank the Fall Conference committee especially Carol Barnes and Colleen Cummings for all their hard work.

Just a reminder our meetings will continue to be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel until further notice as the Warwick is still recovering from the flood.

If you have any ideas please e-mail me at sbittick@weingarten.com or call me at 713-866-6978.

See you at the meeting. *Sheryl*

Risk Management Jobs

- Risk Coordinator, Houston – The Westlake Group (07/17/01)
- Risk Manager, Houston, - Willbros USA, Inc. (08/10/01)
- Insurance Manager, Houston - Methodist Health Care System (08/31/01)
- Safety Auditor, Houston - ABS (Associated Building Services) (08/10/02)
- Risk Management Specialist, Houston - Texas Children's Hospital (09/24/01)
- Manager, Casualty Claims, Houston - Kinder Morgan, Inc. (10/18/01)

Look online at the Houston Chronicle's classified web site under employment. Do a key word search for Safety or Risk Management: www.houstonchronicle.com/classifieds. Or, look online at the Houston Press's classified web site: www.houstonpress.com/classifieds

For further information regarding the above positions or to place a job opening for your company in our newsletter, contact Julia Kovach, Director - Job Placement, via email Julia.Kovach@chron.com or by telephone (713) 220-7607.

For information regarding RIMS Society listings, contact Kamy Persaud at RIMS New York at (212) 286-9292, extension 242 or via email at kpersaud@rims.org.

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40th Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA April 14-18, 2002

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse

**Just in Time for Halloween-
More Scary Lawsuits**

Journey with us into the macabre, the bizarre, and the scary. All it takes is a short trip to the local courthouse. It's Halloween again, and Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) is unmasking some of the scariest lawsuits that made news so far this year. "Don't bother hiding under the covers," said Jon Opelt, Houston Director of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. "There's no way to escape the fact that these lawsuits are out there, and you're paying for them. Have a good laugh, or have a good scream, but remember this: everyone of these lawsuits is a true story."

I'm filing suit: that Haunted House was scary!?—A woman sued Universal Studios for \$15,000, claiming emotional distress from their "Horror Nights" haunted house. The plaintiff claimed she and her granddaughter slipped and fell, sustaining unspecified injuries, when they were chased by an employee wielding a chain saw (which was chainless, mind you). (*Orlando Sentinel*, Orlando, Florida, January 5, 2000)

Trick or Treat: Take my seat and it will cost you! — A tort law professor pulled the seat out from under one of his students in order to demonstrate personal injury lawsuits. Ironically, the student is now suing the professor for "severe mental and physical anguish for pulling the stunt." She wants \$5 million from the professor and is suing the law school as well. (Reuters, June 26, 2001)

Hey, that's not a pumpkin you're carving! — A 19-year-old man filed suit against the hospital that circumcised him at birth, claiming the surgical act has made sex with partners less pleasurable than if the doctors had not removed his foreskin. (ABCNEWS.com; February 7, 2001)

He's barking up the wrong tree — Boomer, the dog, has filed suit against the Invisible Fence Company for physical and emotional damage. The special collar he wore to keep him from escaping his owner's yard apparently shocked him one too many times. Boomer "warned" that he would have his day in court. (AP, May 11, 2001)

A breakfast snack that will leave you screaming — A couple in New Jersey is suing the Kellogg Co. as well as appliance maker, Black & Decker Corp. for \$100,000 in damages, alleging that a cherry Pop-Tart they put in their toaster blew up and burned down their house. The couple admitted to leaving their house while the pop tart was heating up, despite the warning label on the box advising against leaving food unattended in the toaster. (Reuters, July 30, 2001)

Lets make a mountain out of a molehill! — Two artists have each retained lawyers in a fight over who owns the "artistic" concept of "bra balls." Each claims that it was their idea to create a massive bundle of brassieres; one weighs 650 pounds, while the other is 1300 pounds. Both artists feel it is worth the fight to own this idea. One claimed, "I think it is a major important part of American art." (*Modesto Bee*, Modesto, California, May 29, 2001)

"While these lawsuits may provide a few laughs, we should all be horrified at the types of lawsuits that are clogging our courts and keeping legitimate cases from a timely hearing," Opelt said. "The hair-raising fact is that lawsuit abuse is no spoof; it's real. And it's costing each and every one of us." [For more weird and wacky lawsuits check out "Bizarre and Offbeat" at http://www.calahouston.org/bizrdct.html](http://www.calahouston.org/bizrdct.html)

To find meeting dates, newsletters, jobs listing, meeting notices →→
See the Houston Chapter Web Site
www.houstonrims.org

Houston Chapter-RIMS Reacts to the 9-11 Tragedy

Days after the tragedy the Houston Chapter President, Sheryl Bittick of Weingarten Realty Investors, sent out a letter to all Houston members and associate members asking for help. Having a difficult time dealing with the tragedy herself, Sheryl, sought to bring everyone into the circle by writing these words, "We in the Houston Chapter are especially close to the brokerage community, probably more so than most in the country. As I am writing this, many lives from the New York offices of Marsh and Aon have been unaccounted for. For many, that grief is overwhelming, as this is a big country, but a small insurance community." The letter asked for a donation made payable to the September 11th Fund. With the assistance of the local United Way Agency, the money was sent in memory of the Marsh and Aon Employees lost on that tragic day.

Sheryl Bittick and Ella Andrews, Pennzoil-Quaker State Co. delivered the donations of \$1,515 to Ken Geihlsler (a loaned executive from ExxonMobil) of United Way on Monday, October 1st. Additional donations have trickled in, making the total donation \$1,640.



FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITY, PLEASE CALL CONNIE FOLAND.

Updated Name Tags
All outstanding requests for corrections to name tags will have been made as of the time of the November chapter meeting. If your name tag is not accurate as of our next meeting, please notify either Bob Card (RCard@ContactPSC.com) or Jim Lyon (JLyon@ContactPSC.com).

Robert Milkint
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Houston Chapter of RIMS
November 2001 Newsletter



Upcoming Events
RIMS Luncheon Meetings are at 11:30 am

2001

November 14, 2001

December 12, 2001-Risk Manager of the Year

2002

January 16, 2002

February 20, 2002-Honor Past Presidents

March 20 2002-Joint RIMS-CPCU Meeting
Hosted by RIMS

April 14 - 18, 2002-40th Annual RIMS Conference
New Orleans, LA. (No Regular Chapter Luncheon)

May 15, 2002-Staff Appreciation

June 19, 2002

July 19, 2002-Broker Appreciation

August 21, 2002

**NOVEMBER MEETING IS AT
THE CROWNE PLAZA MEDICAL
CENTER HOTEL.**

**6701 MAIN @ HOLCOMB.
PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE
HOTEL FOR \$3.00 (BRING IN YOUR
TICKET TO BE STAMPED) OR, YOU CAN
PARK ON THE SURFACE LOT TO
THE SOUTH OF THE HOTEL.**

Meeting notices are sent out by e-mail. To update information on yourself or your company please contact the Membership Director, Bob Card for Deputies or Chapter Liaison, Carol Barnes for Associates and Non-Members. Please be sure your information is current. If you are a deputy or an associate you can update information on the RIMS web site at www.rims.org