



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

# RIMS NEWS

THE AWARD WINNING HOUSTON CHAPTER

Advancing the Risk Management Profession  
2006-Outstanding Chapter Programming

## March 2007

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### 2007 Officers

#### **President**

Cynthia Vickers, ARM  
El Paso Corporation  
cynthia.vickers@elpaso.com

#### **First Vice President**

Ginny Penzell, ARM  
El Paso Corporation  
ginny.penzell@elpaso.com

#### **Treasurer**

Tom Mace  
Nabors Industries  
tom.mace@nabors.com

#### **Vice President/Secretary**

Sondra K. Faul, CIC  
The University of TX HSC-H  
sondra.k.faul@uth.tmc.edu

#### **Vice President/Asst. Secretary**

Victor Pivetta  
Houston ISD  
vpivetta@houstonisd.org

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Our meeting this month is the annual joint meeting of CPCU and RIMS hosted by the Houston Chapter of CPCU. The meeting is on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It would be great to see our Chapter well represented at the meeting, so please join us at 11:30 a.m. at The Briar Club, 2603 Timmons Lane in Houston.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who has supported the Houston Chapter of RIMS and attended meetings at our current location at the University of Houston Hilton. The meeting facilities are good and parking is typically easy and accessible. The staff has been very accommodating and helpful. Supporting education is the Houston Chapter's goal and we feel that continuing to meet at the University helps achieve that goal. Most of the services provided at the University of Houston Hilton are provided by students. The students are gaining valuable training and experience and, at the same time, providing us with a great place to hold our meetings. I believe it is important that we continue to support the students and the University and your presence at the meetings is essential to making that happen. We will be back at our regular meeting place on April 18<sup>th</sup> and look forward to seeing you there as well as at the Briar Club on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great month. See you soon.

*Cindi Vickers*

## 2007 Directors

### Chapter Liaison

Christine Sparks, ARM  
TOTAL American Services, Inc.  
christine.sparks@total.com

### Education

Nancy Stucky  
GPM, Inc.  
acunavlaw@aol.com

### Job Placement

Barbara Lewis  
Jacobs Engineering Group  
barbara.lewis@jacobs.com

### Legislation

Marty Timpano  
Sysco Corporation  
timpano.marty@corp.sysco.com

### Membership/Attendance

Ella Andrews  
Friedkin Companies, Inc  
eandrews@friedkin.com

### Public Relations/Newsletter

Carol S. Barnes, ARM  
Baylor College of Medicine  
cbarnes@bcm.edu

### RIMS Delegate

Mary E. Isbell  
Friedkin Companies, Inc.  
misbell@friedkin.com

### Web Master

Nikolas G. Kapatos  
Sterling Bancshares, Inc.  
nick.kapatos@banksterline.com

### Past President

Virgil Mead, ARM  
Group 1 Automotive  
vmead@group1auto.com

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Please join us on March 20, 2007  
Meeting Hosted by the  
Houston Chapter of CPCU

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## Speaker: Larry Sanford Sinclair “Why People Don’t Listen”

Mr. Sinclair holds a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science. He’s graduated from Southern University and was a Scholarship recipient

He’s presently with The Business Partner teaching listening training to Corporations, Business Owners, Academic Institutions, Individuals, Associations, and Entrepreneurs.

Mr. Sinclair has sat on advisory boards for Texas Children’s Hospital and Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Larry was the featured guest question Radio KTSU (90.9 FM) and KHOU Channel 11.

He owns a nonprofit company that provides services for women with children and women. He is the past owner of a daycare for special needs children and homeless shelter. Larry operated a food ministry that fed the homeless and is a leader in the community.

Mr. Sinclair is involved or was involved with Big Brothers, Mentoring Children, United Way, Urban League, Fund raising, and Fostering children’s.

Larry is a passionate about teaching and being his brother’s keeper.

See the Chapter web site for the registration form  
(see the link at the end of this document).

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**Deputy Members who are going to  
Conference in New Orleans and want to sit at  
the HOUSTON TABLE please contact Cindi  
Vickers to reserve a spot.**

## 2007 Associate Directors

### Education

Wayne Dauterive, CIC, CRM, ARM, RF  
Terrace Risk Management Services  
wayne@terracerisk.com

### Membership

Robert W. Covington, AIC  
Jacobs Engineering Group  
robert.covington@jacobs.com

## Meeting Dates

March 20, 2007  
Hosted by CPCU

April 18, 2007

Annual conference in New Orleans  
April 29 - May 3, 2007

May 16, 2007

June 20, 2007

July 18, 2007

August 15, 2007

September 19, 2007

October-Fall Conference TBA

November 14, 2007

December 12, 2007

## Houston Chapter Directory

### It is in the works!

Members; Deputy, Associates, Students & Education please check online at [www.rims.org](http://www.rims.org) to make sure your information is correct. They capture the designations so check that too so you can be listed in the directory with your proper credentials.

"Local Chapter Only" Associates please contact Christine Sparks to make sure your information is correct and that your dues are up-to-date.

If you know of anyone who may wish to be an Associate of the "Chapter Only" please ask them to contact Christine.

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### Board Retreat

Excitement was in the air as the 2007 Houston RIMS board met at Minute Maid Park on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the coming year. What a privilege it is to be able to serve this "Award Winning" Houston Chapter. Introduction of the board (with new and old talent) was made and then we got down to drawing up our game plans for the coming year.

Cynthia Vickers, our 2007 president started our first topic which was to encourage current members to attend more monthly meetings. Other topics for the day included: location of the monthly meetings, recognizing new members at monthly meetings, tracking new members, meeting more new members, luncheon speakers for the upcoming year, providing information on educational designations that are available, the fall conference and getting a new directory issued for this year. Our agenda for the day was very busy and yet very fulfilling. We came away with some great ideas and fantastic way to make the Houston RIMS Chapter an event better chapter in 2007.

After finishing up for the day we were treated to a tour of Minute Maid Park. It was a lot of fun seeing all the areas that are usually off limits to the public. We even had an opportunity

to sit as a team in the “dug out”.

While this board is dedicated to improving our chapter, we can't do it alone. We need your involvement. In the coming year we will be announce events and asking for your help. Please get involved because we need your support and experience on our TEAM. GO HOUSTON RIMS!!!

By Sondra Faul



Back Row: Wayne Dauterive, Ginny Penzell, Ella Andrews, Mary Isbell, Christine Sparks, Marty Timpano.  
Front Row: Tom Mace, Nancy Stucky, Carol Barnes, Cindi Vickers, Barbara Lewis, Sondra Faul, Virgil Mead.

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## Houston Job Postings

Claims Administrator

Insurance Manager

Sr. Financial Analyst

**[See chapter website \(hot link at end\) for details.](#)**

Vice President, Risk Management

**[See Jobs Listings at RIMS.org for details.](#)**

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**A student from Temple University in Philadelphia is seeking a summer internship in a Risk Management Department in Houston. Please contact Carol Barnes for further information.**

## TWO EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The CPCU Society National Leadership Institute (NLI) and the  
Alamo Chapter proudly present . . .

### **Creative Leadership Strategies for Women**

and

### **Effective Communication Skills**

**Register Today!**

**When**

March 29, 2007

**Where**

USAA

9800 Fredericksburg Road

San Antonio, Texas 78288-0002

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The CPCU Society and the  
Houston Chapter proudly present . . .

### **Commercial Auto**

*The 2006 Changes and More*

**Filed for CE Credits!**

**Register Today!**

**When**

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7:30 – 11:35 a.m.

**Where**

The Briar Club

2606 Timmons Street (Corner of Westheimer)

Houston, TX 77027

(713) 622-3667

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## VENDOR KORNER..

### "Driving Too Fast for Conditions"

One of the most common behaviors reported in Motorist Observation Reports is "Driving Too Fast for Conditions". Occasionally a customer will ask us "what's the difference between 'driving too fast for conditions' and 'Speeding'? It's a good question.

Speeding usually refers to driving above the posted speed limit for a roadway -- say 75mph in a 55mph posted zone, or 45mph through a working school zone where children are present.

Driving too fast for conditions isn't just about speeding (exceeding posted speed limits) -- it's about the conditions that make it dangerous to travel at, or even below, the posted speed limit.

In most cases, when we mention "conditions" we are referring to extreme weather conditions; however, conditions that require drivers to adjust their habits (slow down) can encompass much more. Traffic congestion, construction zones, merge points, the presence of pedestrians and vehicle defects are examples of other conditions that should make us slow down in order to have more time to react and stop.

For example, driving at the posted limit of 55mph on a highway may be very dangerous during a blizzard with icing on the roadway. Also, driving 35-40mph through a parking area or past crowds of pedestrians who could unexpectedly step into the roadway may be excessive for "the conditions". Recently a singer-actress was driving the posted limit on a freeway in Los Angeles and caused a four car collision including a fatality. While she was not exceeding the posted limit (per reports), she may have been driving too fast for conditions considering the highly common backups of traffic on southern California highways.

Your drivers need to practice cautious judgment while driving since we can encounter all sorts of conditions (expected or unexpected) during a trip. Their reaction to these conditions will either increase or decrease their likelihood of becoming involved in a collision.

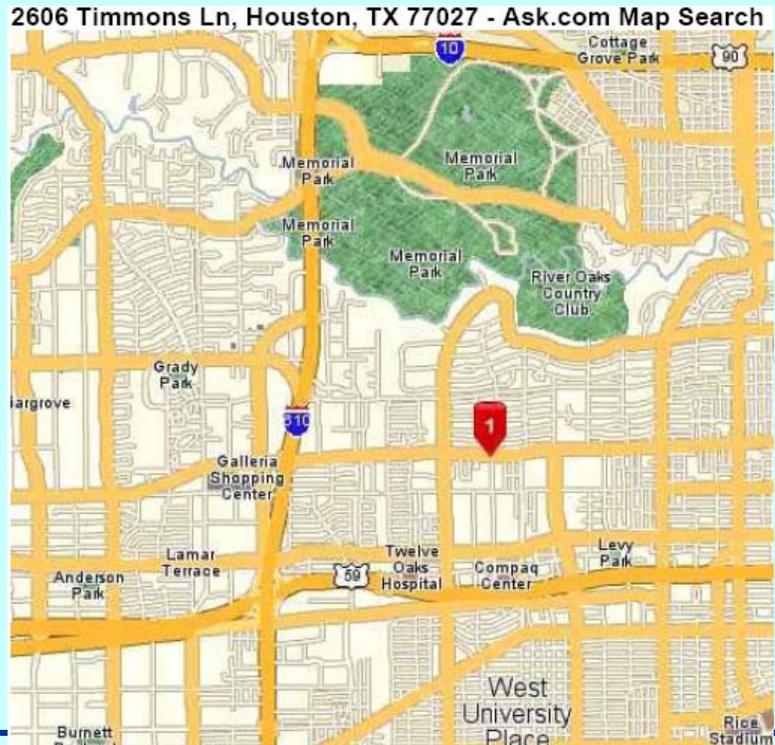
Finally, in our training materials (see web site below) we make reference to pre-trip inspections to report any mechanical defects. Certainly, a vehicle that is exhibiting mechanical defects in braking, steering or other systems should be driven to a repair facility, and this is an example of a "condition" that requires drivers to exhibit caution as they operate the vehicle to a safe stopping place or garage. We acknowledge that each fleet has its own process or procedure for vehicle inspections depending on its industry customs. Please reinforce your company's expectations when delivering the training materials so that your drivers follow your specific practices properly.

Paul Farrell, CEO, Safety-First  
Office Switchboard - 201.267.8900; Toll Free - 888.603.6987  
Office Fax - 201.342.5800  
[www.safetyfirst.com](http://www.safetyfirst.com)  
[www.oscersystem.com](http://www.oscersystem.com) (online record keeping for safety, training, compliance issues)

David Barnett, ARM, CSP, Technical Services Manager  
AIG Consultants  
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# Meeting Location

SPECIAL MEETING LOCATION FOR MARCH 2007 ONLY



Copy and paste the link below to go to the map  
to find directions from your location to  
The Briar Club

<http://maps.ask.com/maps?ml=lt%3D29.74133%7Clg%3D-95.43671%7Cal%3D0%7Ccx%3D-4447673%7Cey%3D-1452843%7Czm%3D3%7Cvt%3D0-It%3D29.74135%7Clg%3D-95.43673%7Cad%3D2606%20Timmons%20Ln%2C%20Houston%2C%20TX%2077027%7Csd%3D0%7Cdm%3D0#1>

Please also see our Chapter Website for additional information:  
<http://www.rims.org/ChapterWebsite/RIMSCChapter.cfm?CWID=6652>