



Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc.®

RIMS NEWS DECEMBER 2001

The following slate of Directors & Officers for the 2002 Board of Directors of the Houston Chapter of RIMS will be presented at the December meeting for a vote. If this slate of candidates is accepted the installation ceremony will follow immediately.

Officers

President
ELLAM.ANDREWS
Penzoil-Quaker State Company

First Vice President
PAMCHAVEZ
Jacobs Engineering Group

Vice President/Treasurer
JULIA KOVACH
Houston Chronicle Publishing Company

Vice President/Secretary
COLLEENCUMMINGS
The Hanover Company

Vice President/Assistant Secretary
JULIE JACKSON
Dynege, Inc.

Directors
Chapter Liaison
MICHAEL TAWNEY
Loomis, Fargo & Co.

Education
CHRISTRIGGS
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Co.

Legislation
WOODY EVANS
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center

Job Placement
BOB MILKINT
The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P.

Membership/Attendance
ROBERT CARD
PSC

Public Relations/Newsletter
TONIGREEN
NL Industries, Inc.

RIMS Delegate
CONNIE FOLAND
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center

Past President
SHERYL BITTICK
Weingarten Realty Investors

Associate Directors

Education
VIRGIL MEAD
Nabors Industries

Legislation
PETE PAHRENTHOLD
Continental Airlines

Membership
JIM LYON
PSC

Our December speaker is Ray Miller. He will be talking to us about "How the medical center happened." Ray Miller worked in broadcast news for 52 years and retired twice. Miller was news director at Channel Two for 20 years. He created "The Eyes of Texas" television program during that time and later created a series called "Ray Miller's Texas" at Channel Eleven.

Miller has traveled every part of the state and has written ten books about Texas. He still travels when he can and still does a little television occasionally. But he works full time now for County Commissioner Steve Radack, handling special projects out of an office in Bear Creek Park.

Slime in the Ice Machine..... Toxigenic Mold!!!

As evidenced by sensation stories in every publication that you read (including the huge Ballard verdict right here in little old Texas), Toxic Mold had created a public frenzy unlike anything we have seen in long time. In January we will explore the current trend in plaintiff litigation and discuss Toxic mold including Stachybotrys. You will not want to miss this presentation, if you are a risk manager on the planet earth you need to know about mold.

We are pleased to announce that our speaker for January is George Wilkinson with Vincent & Elkins. George's principal areas of practice are environmental law and toxic tort litigation. His practice includes counseling and litigation on indoor quality and mold issues. He is an editorial board member of Environmental Forensics and received his law degree and mechanical engineering degree from the University of Texas.

This topic will be of interest to Risk Managers, Underwriters, Safety Personnel and Brokers.



Officers & Directors

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Check the Web Site for RIMS Meetings

From the President's Desk

Well, It is time for me to say goodbye. I want to thank everyone, especially the board for making my year more fun and interesting. I have met so many great people and I will never forget this year. It was just 8 short years ago that I became a risk manager and boy was I clueless, if not for the mentors I met while serving on the board my first year, I am not sure I would have made it. I had so many phone numbers to call to ask questions and everyone was so gracious with their time. I know most of you are not new risk managers but our companies are always going in different directions and doing new ventures with exposures that are new to us. When you get involved, you develop relationships where you know where to go for the help you need. I encourage everyone to get involved in the board or at least on a committee. The friendships you make are invaluable.

I look forward to supporting our new president Ella Andrews and will do everything I can to make the transition a smooth one. Thanks again for all the memories...

See you at the meeting. *Sheryl*

Jobs Listings for December:

- 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)
- Senior Claims Adjuster, Houston - Global Marine, Inc. (11/05/01)
- Risk Manager, Houston - North Harris Montgomery Community College District (11/12/01)
- Risk Management Coordinator, Houston - Lyondell Chemicals (11/13/01)
- Risk Manager, Houston - The Hanover Company (11/27/01)

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.

Countdown!!
5, 4, 3, 2, 1...

E-mail only for the May Issue of RIMS NEWS.
After the April 2002 issue is mailed you may retrieve
your copy of the RIMS NEWS by E-mail or on the
Houston Chapter Web Site.

NEW: get to the Houston Chapter Web Site by accessing it from the Society Web Site at www.rim.org (Chapters/Chapter Web Sites/Houston). The current newsletter is published there when it goes to the printer, about 10 days before it gets to your desk. Copies of the past newsletters are there for reference. Look for the current job listing, it is updated as it changes. Registration forms for the RRM Classes, Conferences, etc. Just new this week, Chapter ByLaws.

RIMS Statement of Principles on Terrorism Reinsurance Capacity November 06, 2001

The United States economy, in all its sectors, including real estate, construction, manufacturing, financial and transportation, is dependent on adequate insurance coverage. Insurers, in turn, must be able to spread the risk that they assume on behalf of individuals and businesses by purchasing reinsurance. At the end of the year, approximately 70 percent of all reinsurance policies will expire.

Due to the financial uncertainties of predicting terrorism activities, most reinsurers refuse to include terrorism coverage in 2002, leaving the insurance industry without the financial backstop that reinsurance provides.

It is imperative that Congress and the Bush administration take prompt action to maintain a robust insurance industry, which is crucial to assuring the continued strength of the U.S. economy. RIMS supports federal intervention to guarantee a viable property and casualty reinsurance source for U.S. policyholders.

RIMS believes the following principles should determine the course of terrorism reinsurance legislation:

• All insurers of U.S. policyholders, with domestic and international properties, should have access to an industry-driven reinsurance mechanism. This mechanism would guarantee a viable property and casualty reinsurance source, stability for policyholders and a healthy insurance and reinsurance market. A voluntary reinsurance pool would allow the industry to build reserves in case of future terrorist attacks.

• “Acts of terrorism” and “acts of war” need to be clearly defined. Precise definitions are required to meet our new reality. The definition of both “acts of terrorism” and “acts of war” should include a state law pre-emption to eliminate conflicting interpretations.

• Federal support for the insurance industry should be limited to five to six years. Involvement by the federal government should be simple, clear and limited. As the world faces an unprecedented situation, the federal government should assume a temporary role to assist the insurance industry in the event that future terrorist acts deplete the industry’s resources. However, the length of time should be long enough for the private markets to recover and become viable again.

• Lines of coverage should not exclude business interruption or workers’ compensation. While property coverage is certainly required, business interruption and workers’ compensation insurance are two of the most essential coverages in an organization’s risk management program, and should be included in any federal reinsurance mechanism.

For more information, please contact RIMS External Affairs Department at 212-655-6046 or jwaldman@rims.org.

Reservation Deadline is Monday prior to the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Please send your response by e-mail to cbarnes@bcm.tmc.edu 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.

The Board of Directors for the Houston Chapter of RIMS is announcing the amendment of the Chapter Bylaws. This amendment is being made to conform with the bylaws of the RIMS Society. In April, 2001 RIMS eliminated a section in the Constitution and Bylaws that afforded discounts and other benefits given to non-dues paying deputies of corporate members. This provision was eliminated to ensure that RIMS is treating all corporate and deputy members similarly and fairly, while ensuring that RIMS has the revenue opportunities to continue and improve existing services as well as introduce services as they are identified. The second amendment changed the process by which individuals become educational members from a nominating to an application process. The Houston Chapter Board of Directors voted to accept these amendments at the November 14, 2001 Board Meeting. The amendments were approved by the majority of deputy members in attendance at the November Luncheon Meeting. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any board member.

Bob Emery, Dr. P.H., CHP, CIH, CSP, RBP, Associate Professor of Occupational Health and the Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety at the University of Texas, Houston, Health Science Center recruited instructors for a Workplace Safety Seminar from the Houston Chapter of RIMS. The students are both undergraduates and graduate students in the Environment Health and Safety program. UT-Houston Health Science Center was seeking the experiences and practical information from practicing risk management professionals. Mike Tawney, the Educational Director on the Houston Chapter of RIMS invited chapter members, brokers, consultants and insurance personnel to participate in the eighteen session program, and was able to arrange for volunteer instructors for all but two of the sessions. The slate of instructors includes Mike Tawney, Jim Drew, Connie Foland, Andy Estrada, and Colleen Cummings. Bob Emery states, “Interactions with practicing professionals not only help the students as they prepare to enter the workforce, but also assist the faculty in ensuring that the students are armed with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in their chosen profession.” The Houston Chapter is proud to have participated in this opportunity to educate others about the risk management process and profession.

ANNOUNCING ARM SPRING COURSE OFFERINGS

The RIMS Houston Chapter will be offering ARM 54 and ARM 56 classes this spring. ARM 54 will meet on Wednesday nights beginning January 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. ARM 56 will meet on Monday nights beginning January 28, also from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Veteran Instructor Jim Drew, of Bowen, Mitchell & Britt, Inc. will teach both classes. Classes will be held at 1111 North Loop West, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77292-2002. Tuition for RIMS members is \$110.00 per class. Tuition for non-RIMS members is \$135.00 per class. Course materials and test fees are additional.

The Associate Risk Manager (ARM) professional designation is important to all Risk Management professionals. The student-teacher relationship in a classroom environment provides rich opportunities to learn through question and answer on the many scenarios presented. Professional networking is also an important aspect of ARM instruction.

If you have not taken ARM classes, there is no time like the present to start. If you still need a class to finish your ARM, there is still no time like the present.

Please call Mike Tawney (713)435-6725 for additional information.

Robert Milkint
Newsletter Editor
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December 2001
RIMS Newsletter



Upcoming Events

RIMS Luncheon Meetings are at 11:30 am

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

**THE DECEMBER MEETING IS AT THE
WARWICK PARK PLAZA HOTEL
5701 MAIN @ HERMANN DRIVE**

**VALET PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL
OR, YOU CAN PARK AT**

- 1. THE WARWICK TOWERS WITH UNDERGROUND
ACCESS TO THE HOTEL, OR**
- 2. THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS HOUSTON
GARAGE ACROSS THE STREET
NORTHEAST OF THE HOTEL.**

**MEETING NOTICES notices are now
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**

Check the Web Site, **www.rims.org** for RIMS Houston
Chapter for **registration forms** for ARM Classes and
Monthly Meetings