



RIMS NEWS

April 2005

THE AWARD WINNING HOUSTON CHAPTER
Advancing the Risk Management Profession



**No April Meeting—
Enjoy RIMS Conference in
Philadelphia**

Legislative Update

Asbestos/Silica Legislation: Senator Kyle Janek has filed SB 15 and Rep. Joe Nixon has filed HB 8 addressing asbestos and silica litigation abuse. The two bills are similar in requiring that a fair and sensible medical threshold be met before lawsuits go forward. Both bills extend the statute of limitations so that any person who becomes ill in the future will have the right to pursue a lawsuit. The House Civil Practices Committee has held a hearing on this legislation. The Senate hearing in the State Affairs Committee is expected to take place soon.

Appeal on Controlling Questions of Law: HB 1294 by Rep. Patrick Rose. This legislation would allow appeals from trial courts to appellate courts to allow fundamental questions of law to be decided before lawsuits go to trial. This would greatly improve the time and cost efficiency of certain cases. This bill has been heard in the House Civil Practices Committee and awaits further legislative action.

Arbitration Limitations: TLR continues to monitor legislation and amendments to legislation that might damage the ability of parties to enter into arbitration agreements. Arbitration was first established as an alternative to lawsuits in 1925. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the concept of faster and less expensive alternatives to litigation. Arbitration agreements nonetheless continue to be the target of legislative efforts to weaken or eliminate this option.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM BILL PASSES TEXAS HOUSE

House Bill 7, the workers' compensation reform bill authored by Chairman Burt Solomons, just preliminarily passed the full House of Representatives by a vote of 144-3. (*Only Representatives Geren, Herrero, and Leibowitz voted no*).

The bill is expected to be finally passed by the printing of this newsletter

HB 7 creates networks of credentialed health providers to treat injured workers and will improve health care access and results, get injured workers back on the job in a timely fashion and help contain health care costs.

When HB7 is finally passed, differences between it and Senate Bill 5 will need to be worked out by a conference committee.

From the President's Desk

Hello Everyone!

April is an "off month" for the local chapter since many of our members will be attending the National Conference in Philadelphia this month. Your Board, however, will still be meeting albeit a week early so that we can begin planning the Fall Conference.

May's meeting is "staff appreciation" month so don't forget to mark your calendar and invite your staff to attend. If your staff helps or has helped with any of the RIMS Chapter activities over the past year, please don't forget to let us know as we want to recognize them with a token of our appreciation at the May meeting. Just email Colleen Cummings at ccummings@hanoverco.com

We look forward to seeing you again on May 18th!

Julia

New Members

We are pleased to announce the following new members who joined our chapter last month:

Tom Goldberg—Sharps Secure—Associate
 Ray Waguespack—Carriage Services
 Clark Harlow—Carriage Services
 Mike Lamb—Noble Drilling
 Michael O'Reilly—Pride International
 Allen Gelwick—Lockton Companies
 Mike Williams—Lockton Companies
 Colin Barnes—Global Risk Capital
 Stephen Van Buren—Cable Lock and Olshan Companies
 Amy Murrer—MJM Investigations, Inc.—Associate
 Michael Thompson—Alvarez and Marsal—Associate

Officers & Directors

President
 JULIA KOVACH
 Houston Chronicle Publishing Co.
 713.362.7607
Julia.Kovach@chron.com

First Vice President
 VIRGIL MEAD, ARM
 Nabors Industries, Inc.
 281.775.8168
virgil.mead@nabors.com

Treasurer
 THOMAS M. MACE
 Nabors Industries, Inc.
 281.775.8116
tom.mace@mail.nabors.com

Vice President/Secretary
 SUSAN SANDERS
 Philip Services Corp.
 713.625.7015
ssanders@contactpsc.com

Vice President/Assistant Secretary
 JIM LYON, CPCU
 Philip Services Corp.
 713.625.7174
lyon@contactpsc.com

Chapter Liason
 GINNY PENZELL, ARM
 El Paso Corporation
 713.420.4814
ginny.penzell@elpaso.com

Education
 CYNTHIA VICKERS
 El Paso Corporation
 713.420.5078
cynthia.vickers@elpaso.com

Job Placement
 PAM CHAVEZ, ARM, CIC, CRM
 Jacobs Engineering Group
 832.351.7144
pam.chavez@jacobs.com

Legislation
 MARSHA PHILLIPS
 Jacobs Engineering Group
 832.351.7149
marsha.d.phillips@jacobs.com

Membership/Attendance
 VICTOR PIVETTA, ARM
 Houston ISD
 713.871.9365

Public Relations/Newsletter
 STEVE BRODERICK
 SYSCO Corporation
 281.584.1764

RIMS Delegate
 MARY ISBELL
 Friedkin Companies, Inc.
 713.580.3280
misbell@friedkin.com

Webmaster
 NIKOLAS KAPATOS
 Sterling Bancshares, Inc.
 713.507.2474
nick.kapatos@banksterling.com

Past President
 COLLEEN CUMMINGS, ARM
 The Hanover Company
 713.581.1209
ccummings@hanoverco.com

Associate Directors
 Education
 SONDR A K FAUL, CIC
 The University of TX HSC-H
 713.500.8127
Sondra.K.Faul@uth.tmc.edu

Legislation
 ROBERT COVINGTON, AIC
 Jacobs Engineering Group
 832.351.7153
robert.covington@jacobs.com

Membership/Attendance
 REBECCA WALKER, CPCU, ARM
 David E. Harvey Builders, Inc.
 713.243.4251
bwalker@harveybuilders.com

Education Corner

RIMS Member Children's Scholarships—Last Chance

Attention all Deputy Members! Do you have a child attending college or technical school in the 2005? The Houston RIMS Chapter is proud to announce that we are sponsoring RIMS Member Children's Scholarships. Please see the attached application for instructions and scholarship details.

Note: The four (4) scholarships have been increased to \$1,000 each, and the registra-



Houston Risk Manager of the Year

The Houston Chapter Board of Directors has decided to defer the award for Houston's Risk Manager of the Year until further notice. The applications that have been submitted for the January 31, 2005, deadline will be retained and reviewed when the program is reactivated

Houston Area Job Links for April 2005

- Group 1 Automotive, Inc.—Assistant Risk Manager
- San Antonio Independent School District—Administrative Officer-Employee Benefits & Risk
- Mohawk Industries (Calhoun, GA) - Risk Manager
- Workers Compensation Coordinator—NCI Building Systems, L.P.
- Director Finance & Planning—Lord & Albus Company

For further information regarding positions or to place a job opening for your company in our newsletter, contact Pam Chavez, Director—Job Placement (832) 351-7144

Email: pam.chavez@jacobs.com

Listing descriptions and contact information can be found at The Houston RIMS website:

<http://Houston.rims.org>

Also, look online at the Houston Chronicle's classified web site under employment. Do a key word search for Safety or Risk Management at:

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/classified>

Or look online at the Houston Press's classified web site:

<http://www.houstonpress.com/classifieds>

**No April Luncheon Meeting —See you in Philadelphia!
Next Houston Chapter Luncheon Meeting—May 18th**

Meeting Notices, Newsletters and other chapter correspondence are now distributed by email.

If you are a deputy member and are not receiving yours please let us know by contacting Victor Pivetta, Membership Director. Deputies can update/correct information by logging on to the Society web site: www.rims.org. Associates & Non-Members should contact Ginny Penzell

On the first page of each RIMS Monthly Newsletter, we publish a **brief** article of interest to our members. If you have one to submit for publication, please send articles of interest (no advertisements please) to: 34391.Stephen.Broderick@rimsmail.org

Houston Chapter of RIMS

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17-21, 2005

RIMS Annual Conference—Philadelphia
(No Local Chapter Meeting)

April 19, 2005

CPCU Society Workshop—Houston
Contractual Risk Transfer

May 18, 2005

RIMS Houston Luncheon Meeting

RIMS Professional Development Courses

April 21-22	Philadelphia, PA	Client & Ins Broker Rel.
April 21-22	Philadelphia, PA	Dev & Impl a Captive Ins. Co.
May 12-13	Kansas City, MO	Workers Compensation Mgmt.
May 23-24	New York, NY	Techniques of Risk Mgmt.
June 2-3	Minneapolis, MN	Financial Aspects of Insurance Cos.
June 2-3	New York, NY	Enterprise Risk Management
June 14-15	Washington, DC	RIMS on the Hill

HOUSTON CHAPTER OF RIMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
RIMS Member Children's Scholarship – 2005

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: \$1,000

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: 4

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30, 2005 (received at submission address)

SUBMISSION ADDRESS:

Houston Chapter of RIMS Scholarship Committee

c/o Cynthia Vickers

El Paso Corporation

P. O. Box 2511

Houston, TX 77252-2511

**** The Houston Chapter of RIMS reserves the right to return all incomplete applications at any time or applications received after the deadline.****

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP:

1. Parent/Guardian of applicant must be a current Houston RIMS Chapter Deputy Member.

2. The applicant must:

- a. have been accepted to attend or be a continuing student for the Spring 2005 semester at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school.**
- b. be less than 25 years of age at the beginning of the current school year (Sept 1, 2005).**

3. Complete and sign the Scholarship application form and submit all attachments.

4. Out of the submitted applications received, scholarship finalists will be selected by the Scholarship Committee. Finalists will participate in an interview to discuss their application and for the Scholarship Committee to get to know the applicant. Interviews will be held at a time and location to be announced between Feb. 28, 2005 – March 16, 2005.

5. (Prior to scholarship money being awarded) Applicant must be registered for classes at the applicants' university/school for the Spring 2005 semester and submit a copy of her/his Spring 2005 class schedule (registration statement) to the submission address.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP OR FORM

Submit all questions in writing to the Submission Address.

ATTACHMENTS: All documents or an explanation must accompany the application form. Failure to do so disqualifies the applicant.

1. Copy of applicant's high school transcript (only if freshman)
2. Copy of applicant's letter of acceptance (only if freshman)
3. Certified copy of college transcript
4. Copy of any awards, recommendations or documents which applicant feels will assist the selection committee.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM:

Name _____ SS# _____

Address _____

(STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)

Telephone (Home)----- (School) _____

Date of Birth _____

High School Attended By Applicant: _____

School Address _____

Date of Graduation _____

Name/Telephone # of Counselor _____

Grade (Year) Classification (Fr/So/Jr/Sr) _____

Major Study Interest _____

Minor Study Interest _____

Current Grade Point Average _____

Extra Curricular Activities _____

Offices or Leadership Positions Held _____

Work Experience _____

Do you hold or have you applied for any other scholarship or assistance for the Spring 2005 semester? _____

Source of Scholarship/Assistance _____

Results _____

State briefly (in one (1) attached page) why you applied for this scholarship, why you should receive it, and what you want to achieve with it. List any other information which you feel will be important to the selection committee.

Applicant Signature:

X _____

****By signing this application form, the applicant gives the Houston Chapter of RIMS Scholarship Committee the right to verify any information submitted by applicant.****

NOTICE TO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Any RIMS Member Children's Scholarship recipient may be an applicant for a subsequent RIMS Member Children's Scholarship, however, there is no guarantee that a past RIMS Member Children's Scholarship recipient will receive a subsequent RIMS Member Children's Scholarship.