

Upcoming Events

CHAPTER MEETING
THURS, MARCH 23RD
COMEDY AT THE
CARLSON
50 CARLSON RD,
ROCHESTER, NY 14610

BUFFALO HAPPY HOUR
VENUE AND DATE TBD
MAY 2023

27TH ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT
TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH
RAVENWOOD GOLF CLUB
929 LYNAUGH RD, VICTOR,
NY 14564

CHAPTER MEETING
AUGUST 2023
THE GRAND LADY
275 GANSON ST, BUFFALO,
NY 14203

CHAPTER APPRECIATION
EVENT
NOVEMBER 2023
BUFFALO BILLS GAME AT
HIGHMARK STADIUM

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The RIMS Report



CRYPTO
REGULATION

**PRESENTER: TIMOTHY DUNFEY, ESQ OF
ALAHAMBRA COMPLIANCE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
12:30 PM
COMEDY AT THE CARLSON
ROCHESTER, NY
COMEDY SHOW AND HAPPY
HOUR TO FOLLOW!
UPSTATENEWYORK.RIMS.ORG

MEMBERS: FREE
NON-MEMBERS: \$60

The presentation will cover the regulatory risk to financial institutions associated with crypto currencies and digital assets in one form or another. We will go through applicable federal laws, rules and regulations as well as enforcement actions currently that have taken place in the last 12 months. After our presentation, we will enjoy lunch followed by our very own standup comedy show! For anyone who would like to attend and network further, happy hour will be scheduled next door at Radio Social. First drink is on RIMS!



Risk Professional Spotlight

Andrew Eller

Senior Vice President, Risk Management



How did you get into Risk Management?

For a career in Risk Management, my background is fairly non-traditional. I spent my first few years working in Sports Management for the Buffalo Bills in the Rochester and Buffalo, NY regions, and the Arena Football League, in Chicago, Illinois, before returning to Rochester to obtain my MBA in Accounting. While I was in graduate school, I interned at First American Equipment Finance. After graduating I worked for a Big Four public accounting firm for another few years before ending up back at First American. It was here that I held multiple roles in the Finance department before being asked to create and lead their Risk Management function.

What is your biggest challenge as a Risk Professional?

Developing, operating, and maintaining a Risk Management program comes with lots of opportunities. One of the main responsibilities of our team is educating colleagues on the top and emerging risks of our business, identifying new risks and control gaps as internal and external environments evolve, and working with business leaders to implement remediating activities to manage our risks effectively.

What is the most important skill for a Risk Professional?

Risk professionals need to be exceptional communicators. This starts with understanding the different stakeholders within an organization and delivering communication at a level that is appropriate for each, which will result in an educated and informed workforce that can respond correctly to the risks that an organization faces.

What is one item you cannot live without?

Fitness and being active. Whether it is running, weight training, snowboarding, or doing other activities, challenging myself physically helps me focus professionally.

Who would you choose to be if you could switch places for a day?

I would love to coach a sports team on the day of a championship game.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Sinbad's

Who inspires you?

My family.

What is the biggest risk you have taken?

Snowboarding on a double black diamond trail, having only stepped foot on a snowboard twice before.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

I have two things to share for this answer.

- Listen more, talk less.
- Discipline is the key to unlocking your ultimate potential.

What is one fun fact about yourself people should know?

I love to coach both of my daughters youth lacrosse teams

Chapter President Update

What a ride it has been! 2022 left faster than it came. And now 2023 is on our doorstep asking our chapter what do we want to achieve this year? And boy do we have our biggest year yet planned! I am very excited to continue to serve as the President of the Upstate New York RIMS Chapter and connect even more risk professionals to our group and continue to provide the latest education on emerging risk topics and meaningful networking opportunities. But before we can talk about our plans for the future, I'd like to share some of the big accomplishments we had in 2022. The Upstate New York Chapter hit some huge milestones this year:

1. We integrated Diversity, Equity & Inclusion into the chapter's foundation and objectives to build an organization that better reflects the community we serve. Bradley Bismark was appointed Director of DEI and planned our first meeting ever on the subject at the Ganondagan State Historic Site. April Purdie, Director of Diversity and Inclusion presented to our group about tangible tools to further our DEI initiatives within our organization. Our chapter was able to formalize our DEI statement which we proudly share on our Chapter website: "RIMS Upstate NY is committing to building a highly diverse, equitable and inclusive community. We commit to being informed, effective and sustainable in how we will shape Upstate NY RIMS to be reflective of the communities we serve."

2. We strengthened our mentorship program and engagement with students pursuing a degree in a risk management or insurance-related field of study and expanded organizational awareness among regional universities and colleges offering RIMS curriculum. Nick Flihan was appointed as the Director of Student Engagement. With Nick's passion and support our chapter was able to create the first chapter standalone risk management scholarship which will be announced in this newsletter as well.

3. EVENTS! EVENTS! EVENTS! While off to a slow start with planning events due to the pandemic, we came out of 2022 on fire! April we hosted our biggest event EVER at the baseball stadium with almost 100 attendees! This was followed by our most successful golf tournament in our chapter's history. Registrations were sold out in 30 days! Our favorite chapter meeting in Buffalo on the Grand Lady was another big hit. We hosted our second annual member appreciation event with the Buffalo Bills and they gave us an epic win! Our first DEI meeting was in the books. And we were finally able to celebrate our chapter with our first holiday party - Vegas Style! Who says risk managers don't know how to have fun?! Thank you to our members that continue to support us just by showing up!

We have an incredible year planned for our local RIMS chapter! You can look forward to exciting new venues and relevant educational presentations! We want to provide our members and friends with opportunities to learn about the newest trending risk topics while also having fun networking with new and old friends in the risk industry! And don't forget - Members attend ALL of our chapter meetings ASBOLUTELY FREE! Check out our event schedule on our website and in this newsletter.

If you haven't done so yet, please follow us on our new LinkedIn Business Page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/80935509/admin/>. Here you will find the latest updates on news, chapter updates and event information. Not to mention, you'll see all the pictures of smiling faces having a great time from every event! Please also feel free to follow us on our other social media websites on Facebook and Instagram - Search for RIMS Upstate NY.

Now for my Academy Award speech: I want to thank this incredible Board for dedicating the time and resources to make this organization and our local events possible. We wouldn't be as successful (or have as much fun!) without each and every one of you. Thank you for the passion, creativity, and friendship you all have given to me to make this the very best chapter in the world!

Lastly and most importantly, I want to thank OUR MEMBERS. The members that continue to elevate the risk management profession by educating themselves at our meetings, asking questions and providing comments during our sessions, sharing their stories and challenges and creating lifelong friendships with the people they meet within our chapter! Thank you for helping create this special risk management community right in Upstate New York and allowing me to help lead it. I look forward to connecting with all of you in person soon!

Cheers to another amazing year!



ANNE ASKLOFF
CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Welcome New RIMS Members

Name	Organization
Brian Walsh	ESL Federal Credit Union
Cheryl Zuranski	ONEGROUP Risk Management & Insurance
Mike Burgess	KPH Healthcare Services, Inc.

Meet your 2023 Board Members



- President
- Anne Askloff
- Sutherland Global Services



- Vice President
- Sarah Gibson
- NFP



- Treasurer
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- Co-Secretary
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- Director of Student Engagement
- Nick Flihan
- AmeriCU Credit Union



- Director of Engagement
- Jackie Travis
- CIC Group



- Director of Communications
- Brian Reynolds
- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes



- Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Bradley Bismark
- Microsoft



