



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

# L.A. RIMS NEWS

**Los Angeles Chapter**

The Newsletter for Risk and Insurance Management Professionals June 2002

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

At our recent board meeting, we discussed the promising direction of our education program. A couple of our board members recently met with Dr. Lu at Cal State Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton offers an insurance studies program, which includes six courses. They have placed 199 students in internships over the past few years. Our RIMS Chapter is offering to help create a bridge between Cal State Fullerton and the broker community by supporting a career path for the students. Periodically they have symposiums where guest speakers can teach, provide war stories, and career information. We will be encouraging our members to step up to the plate. Our chapter will also be exploring alternatives for providing financial support.

The site of the 2006 RIMS National conference was also discussed at the board meeting. The conference will be held in Hawaii. Our board is concerned that this site may cause a low attendance due to the perception that Hawaii is for fun and not for business. Several of our board members indicated it would be unlikely that their companies would approve attendance at this conference. RIMS President Chris Mandel has advised "...that RIMS leadership has done its due diligence on the decision to bring the RIMS Annual Conference & Exhibition to Hawaii in 2006." We have sent correspondence to Chris Mandel regarding our concerns. Stay tuned for further developments.

As a final note, please remember that there is not a luncheon meeting in June. Our annual golf tournament will be on Monday, June 3rd. Hope to see you there.

**Kathy Merkovsky  
President, RIMS L.A. Chapter**

## **CHAPTER CLIPS**

### **PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

In memory of Debbie Maruyama

For those of you who may know Tom Maruyama, Deputy Director of San Mateo County, Office of Emergency Services, his wife was fatally injured when his vehicle was hit from the rear by an intoxicated driver on April 5, 2002. Cal Trans will place and maintain a sign in memory of a victim who was killed by a driver intoxicated with alcohol or drugs. Donations are being accepted for a Cal Trans sign in memory of Debbie. If you are interested, contributions may be made payable to CESA Coastal Chapter and sent to Sandy Covall-Alves, Sonoma County Dept. Emergency Services; 2300 County Center Dr., Ste. 221-A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### **CITY RISK MANAGERS RETIRE**

After 29 years with the City of Los Angeles and 20 years in Risk Management, Richard (Dick) Welch, ARM, Director of Risk Management for the City of Los Angeles retired in April. Dick began his risk management career at the Port of L.A. in 1982 and in 1984 moved to the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) as City Risk Manager. In recent years Dick's responsibilities were expanded to include the City's Safety and Industrial Hygiene Section. Dick's many accomplishments include creating Los Angeles' first owner controlled insurance program and establishing the SPARTA insurance program for small contractors. Dick is a former President of the Los Angeles Chapter of RIMS. Also retiring in May, is fellow Risk Manager Art Cupples who has worked for the City of Los Angeles for 15 years. Roberta DeGrandis, ARM, Risk Manager for the Los Angeles Department of Airports since 1994, will be retiring this summer after 37 years with the City of Los Angeles, 18 years in risk management. Roberta's accomplishments include developing a pilot program to proactively manage

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# CHAPTER CLIPS CONTINUED

the Airport's workers' compensation claims. Roberta, Dick, and Art, initially all worked together as risk managers under the CAO in City Hall. Both the risk management community and the City of Los Angeles will miss these risk management professionals and the expertise and integrity they brought to the profession. We wish them well in their retirement.

## ATTENTION NEW PROFESSIONAL DESIGNEES!

At our July 17th luncheon, we will be recognizing the insurance education achievements of LA RIMS members, Friends of RIMS and their respective staff. Leo Costantino, Education Chair, will announce each designee's name, designation earned (ARM, FRM, AIC, CPCU, etc.), the designee's job title, employer, and number of years in the insurance industry. Please forward designee information or direct any questions to Leo Costantino at 213-922-4620.

## RIMS 2006 CONFERENCE

Letter from RIMS President Regarding 2006 Conference

To: Chapter Presidents and House of Delegates (Group)

CC: Executive Council and Board of Directors (Group)

As President of RIMS, I want to assure you that RIMS leadership has done its due diligence on the decision to bring the RIMS Annual Conference & Exhibition to Hawaii in 2006.

In October of 1999, based on the fact that Hawaii was a unique and popular business meeting destination, a formal presentation was given to the then Board of Directors, which at the time was comprised of a representative from each chapter. At that point, the Society Directors were requested to pass comments from their chapters to the Executive Council. In December 1999, based on the business analysis for this site and on feedback received from the Directors, RIMS Executive Council approved Hawaii as the destination for 2006.

RIMS Executive Council and staff continue to monitor factors that may affect Hawaii as a conference site as they do with all conference sites as a matter of standard practice. In addition to our standard practices, RIMS meetings and events and external affairs staff have already started working

with their vendors on plans to ensure the success of the conference in Hawaii through an aggressive marketing campaign.

As discussed at the April 2002 House of Delegates meeting, in the near future we will be sending you material that was presented at the October 1999 Board meeting regarding attendee cost estimates.

Your continued support of RIMS Annual Conference & Exhibition and all RIMS programs is greatly appreciated. RIMS will continue to review all future conference destinations to meet the needs of our members and exhibitors.

Best regards,

Christopher E. Mandel

President, RIMS

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### SECURITY ALERT

The following information is being provided in an effort to help you receive updates of security alerts about potential future terrorist activity in the United States. This information may be of significant importance to property owners of high-rise apartment buildings. Although Los Angeles has not been made aware of any direct threat, new information issued by the FBI indicates new concern for residential facilities and public locations. The FBI and LAPD is asking that you advise your security teams to be alert for any unusual activities, including surveying or congregating that occur in the area where you live or work. Be suspicious! Any unusual activity around the apartment buildings, please report to the property management or landlord. If you feel strongly that such activity warrants the attention of the LAPD, you may call 213-485-6185 or 485-3294. There is also a dispatch center telephone number, 213-624-2424. The LAPD is planning to issue an Apartment Threat Guideline. Please contact them if you wish to receive a copy. Also remember the City of Los Angeles's website to receive updates: <http://www.updatela.com/>. Other websites: FBI - <http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/terrorism.htm>; State of California- <http://www.caag.state.ca.us/antiterrorism/index.htm>. We welcome any information or comments members might want to share. Please contact our RIMS L.A. Chapter office at 818-842-6096 or by fax at 818.843.7423

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### FIRM MUST PAY FOR FATAL OFF-DUTY HEART ATTACK

Encouraging workers to develop healthy habits can help keep comp costs down. Consider distributing quick tips on diet and exercise during your weekly safety meetings.

**What happened:** A police officer spent a day on a high-stress assignment and died of a heart attack shortly after arriving home. His widow filed for workers comp death benefits.

**Company's reaction:** His employer fought the claim, arguing that the heart attack was related to the officer's personal risk factors - such as obesity and high blood pressure - rather than his duties.

**Decision:** The employer lost. The court found there was sufficient evidence to show the officer's death was related to his job. Although the worker's physician acknowledged the personal risk factors, he claimed the high-stress work was also a contributing factor.

**Cite:** *Ramsey v. City of Cyersburg*, Tennessee Supreme Ct., No. W2001-015059-SC-WCM-CV, 2/7/02.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Contact:

Rick Manning  
F.E. Manning Associates  
17939 Chatsworth Street, # 515  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Please reply by phone or email  
Phone: 818.832.3249  
Email: rm@femanning.com

Sr. Risk and Treasury Analyst, low to mid 60'sK  
International Manufacturer, South Bay location

Primary responsibility to support the Treasury Manager with analytical information and documentation, perform risk management functions and certain day-to-day cash operations.

Duties:

Administer and update all global insurance policies  
Collect data and prepare documentation for insurance renewals  
Responsible for global claims administration  
Develop global claims procedures and training program for all locations  
Assist with integration with acquisition into global insurance program

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Act as liaison with operations personnel and insurance broker on insurance related issues  
Assist in development of Corporate Financial Practices for risk management and treasury  
Covenant compliance reporting  
Maintain and assist with Letters of Credit and interest rate swap issues  
Work with revolving credit line activities  
Cross train on liquidity process  
Assist foreign subsidiaries with bank account opening documentation.

Requires Excel spreadsheet capabilities  
Must be able to multitask, excellent communication and professional presentation  
Must be promotable  
Relevant Risk Management experience; both Risk Management and Treasury preferred  
Prefer 4-year degree  
COMPANY VERY WILLING TO TRAIN IN TRESURY FOR STRONG CANDIDATE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3, 2002

RIMS L.A. Golf Tournament  
Brookside Golf Course  
Pasadena, CA

July 17, 2002

Monthly Luncheon  
New Otani Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA

August 21, 2002  
Monthly Luncheon  
New Otani Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA

### L.A. RIMS NEWS



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