



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

# L.A. RIMS NEWS

Los Angeles Chapter

The Newsletter for Risk and Insurance Management Professionals August 2003

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's that time of year where colleges have just completed graduation ceremonies and prominent speakers addressed the future leaders of America. Students typically have majored in business, engineering, the sciences and the arts. How many of them are dreaming of a future in risk management or insurance? Probably a minimal number. Some are probably thinking that if they can't find the job they really want, they can always sell insurance.

How many of us thought we would be in the jobs we are in today? In college, I never heard of the title "Risk Manager" or even the phrase "risk management"...or maybe I missed/slept through that lecture. The only thing I knew about insurance was that I had to have it for my car and where can I buy it cheap.

If you are like me, most of us found insurance accidentally. I was tooling down the road of employment, which I hoped would lead me somewhere. Then somebody sidetracks me and says there's an opening over there that I might be interested in. So I make a left turn on a dirt road with every intention of getting back on the main road. But I ended up staying on the dirt road because it was kind of fun, a little bumpy, and different. The dirt road turned into a paved road. Then I realized I was on the main road, just a different one. I never intended to be on the road of insurance and risk management, but the drive is nice (though there are some potholes to swerve around occasionally) and I still meet a lot of nice people along the way. I think I'll stay on this road awhile longer.

Hoping you are enjoying your ride,

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

## CHAPTER CLIPS

### *RIMS L.A. CHAPTER ANNUAL BOAT TOUR*

#### **AHOY MATES! COME ON BOARD!**

The Los Angeles Chapter will be hosting its annual boat tour of the Los Angeles Harbor on August 20th. Following the boat tour, we will be holding our strategic planning meeting for 2004. Those that are interested in joining our Board of Directors are invited to attend our Strategic Planning Meeting.

We are always looking for members who are interested in joining the Board of Directors or joining one of our committees. We have plenty of opportunities:



1. Do you enjoy planning fund raising events? Help us plan our annual golf tournament or other fundraisers for scholarships.
2. Do you have topics or speakers that would make for an interesting luncheon meeting? Help coordinate our monthly luncheon meetings.
3. Do you enjoy writing? Our newsletters need your input.
4. Do you enjoy meeting new people? Perhaps you would enjoy handling new incoming members, working with students, or interacting with our current members.

The list of opportunities is endless. Here's your opportunity to do what you do best for your Chapter. This is your golden opportunity to truly participate and become an active member of your Chapter. Please contact any of the board members if you are interested in becoming a board member. (Remember that only members may join the board. Associates, retired, students and Friends of RIMS cannot.)

Mark your calendars, don't miss the boat, and come on board!

## CHAPTER CLIPS CONTINUED

### SAVE THE DATES

August 20th - Port of L.A. Boat Tour  
August 20th - Strategic Planning Meeting  
September 14-17 - Western Regional Conference  
September 17th - Chapter luncheon meeting  
September 24th - Friends of RIMS Night  
October 15th - Education Day

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### **NEW RULE WILL ENSURE MORE RESTED TRUCKERS, SAYS TRANSPORTATION DEPT.**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has made the first significant change to its hours of service (HOS) rules for truck drivers since 1939. The department's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration says the "science-based HOS final rule will improve highway safety and help reduce the number of truck crashes and related fatalities and inquiries by addressing commercial motor vehicle driver fatigue." DOT also announced plans to expand research initiatives on electronic onboard recorders and other technologies that help insure compliance with HOS regulations.



The new rules allow truckers to drive 11 consecutive hours within a 14-hour period after 10 consecutive hours off-duty. The current rule allows 10 hours of driving time within a 15-hour on-duty period after 8 hours of off-duty time. Similar to existing rules, drivers may not drive after being on duty 60 hours in a 7-consecutive-day period, or 70 hours in an 8-consecutive day period. This on-duty cycle may be restarted whenever a driver has taken 34 or more consecutive hours off-duty. Short-haul truck drivers who return to their place of dispatch after each run may have an increased on-duty period of 16 hours once driving any 7 consecutive day period.

The American Trucking Associations, the nation's largest trucking industry trade organization, announced its support for the new rule. But the change was not welcomed by the Teamsters, who claim the changes will only serve to increase driver fatigue. The new rule will be enforced beginning January 4, 2004.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### ASBESTOS LITIGATION DATA

On July 10th, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act-S. 1125. However, the American Insurance Association and the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors have withdrawn their support of the bill due to an added amendment that would increase the cost of the proposed trust fund.

Some background information:

- There are approximately 200,000 asbestos claims pending in federal and state courts.
- More than 40,000 new claims filed every year.
- 8,400 defendants (6,000 last year).
- Asbestos litigation has spread to industries outside asbestos manufacturing. At least one company in nearly every U.S. industry now involved in litigation.
- The number of mesothelioma claims has stayed at about 2,000 per year for the past decade.
- A vast majority of workers exposed to asbestos may never contract an asbestos-related illness.

Sources:

1. The Asbestos Alliance website
2. The Impact of Asbestos Liabilities on Workers in Bankrupt Firms; Sebago Assoc. J. Stiglitz, J. Orzag, P. Orzag, December 2002.

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### **ASSE ESTABLISHES MANUFACTURING BEST PRACTICES GROUP**

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has created a new best practices "branch" for members involved in manufacturing. In a press release, ASSE said the group will look at "new technologies, techniques, and best practices to address the manufacturing-related safety, health, and environmental challenges that face our profession." According to ASSE, 30 percent of its members work in manufacturing.

The group will address specific issues facing metalworking, chemical and petroleum processing, printing and publishing, timber and lumber working, food processing, and rubber and plastics, among other industries. ASSE offers 13 practice specialties.

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### **IS YOUR WORKSPACE SET-UP WORKING FOR OR AGAINST YOU?**

What does your body tell you after a day at work? If it responds with aches and pains, you might think about how you work and how your office is arranged. A few minutes spent reorganizing could save you from muscle spasms and other uncomfortable response from an overworked body.

*Excerpted from Communication Briefings July 2003*

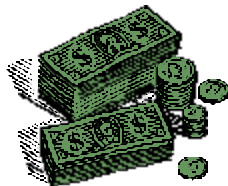
## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### **SAFETY AND LOSS CONTROL CONSULTANT**

Department: Human Resources  
Reports to: Manager, Loss Control  
Position Summary

The Safety/Loss Control Consultant is responsible for consulting with entity stakeholders, Quality, Finance and Claims Administration Office, monitoring data integrity for the loss database, analyzing loss factors and identifying solutions to enhance our employee safety program throughout the St. Joseph Health System.

Response information:  
Fax resume to Debra Hailey at 714.347.7540 or  
e-mail resume to: [sjshr@stjoe.org](mailto:sjshr@stjoe.org)



### L.A. RIMS NEWS



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Website: [www.larims.org](http://www.larims.org)

News articles must be received by the 15th of each month.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### **RISK MANAGER**

The Riverside Transit Agency ([www.RIVERSIDETRANSIT.com](http://www.RIVERSIDETRANSIT.com)) is recruiting for Risk Manager to be responsible for insurance procurement, vehicle liability insurance program, self-insured workers comp. program, and the Agency's safety responsibilities.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Bachelors Degree in Risk Mgmt., Business. Admin., Public Admin., or related field
2. 5-years progressively responsible administrative or supervisory exp. in risk mgmt./claims administration.
3. Legal background desirable.

**A completed RTA application is required for consideration.** Applications and complete job descriptions are available at 1825 3rd St., Riverside and at 700 Scaramella Cir., Hemet. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

### CONTACT:

Human Resources Department  
Phone: (909) 565-5000  
Email: [rthomas@riversidetransit.com](mailto:rthomas@riversidetransit.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All monthly meetings are held at the New Otani Hotel, unless otherwise noted*

August 20, 2003

Luncheon -Boat Tour at the Port of Los Angeles

September 14-17, 2003

RIMS Western Regional Conference  
Oregon

September 17, 2003

Monthly Luncheon

September 24, 2003

Friends of RIMS Night

October 15, 2003

Education Day

