



# RIMS Los Angeles Chapter QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Winter 2007-2008

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## Contact Us

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## Chapter Turnover Dinner in 2008 Honors Outgoing Board Members

The Los Angeles Chapter takes time each January to bring together incoming and outgoing Board members to provide an exchange of ideas on positions, responsibilities, and functional duties. As new members join the Board, existing members change roles, and others are departing their positions. It is a time to review past initiatives, restate the current mission, and unite resources we will draw from to achieve our upcoming goals.

This year's Turnover Meeting was held on January 10, 2008 at Roy's in downtown Los Angeles. Scott Ritto, 2007 Chapter President, presented outgoing Board members Rae Knapp and Paula Ferrini with plaques of appreciation for their contributions and service to the Board.

Rae Knapp, Risk Manager for the Automobile Club of Southern California has been on the Los Angeles Chapter Board for over fifteen years, and is an outgoing officer, having served most recently as Chapter Secretary. Rae has made significant contributions to the efforts of the Chapter over the years in countless areas. She could always be relied on to be there for Board meetings, luncheons, the annual golf tournament, and other Chapter events. Rae was also instrumental in the success of the Santa Anita Racetrack "Day at the Races" held in March, 2007 to benefit the Spencer Educational Foundation.

Paula Ferrini retired from her position in the Risk Management group of the Los Angeles Times in May of 2007, and was the outgoing Director of Membership for the Chapter. She brought a dedication to the role that has really been missed since her retirement. Paula very generously shared her ideas and thoughts on the position with incoming Membership Director Sarah Allen of Entertainment Partners.

The Chapter gives sincere thanks to the outgoing Board members who were unable to attend the dinner for their service on the Board: Mike Carlin of Jacobs Engineering, Todd Marumoto of Mattel, Kathy Merkovsky of the Port of Los Angeles, and Stacy Stevens of Lowe Enterprises. Both Mike and Kathy served in the role of President of the Board in prior years. We wish all the best of luck.

New incoming Board members are Sarah Allen, Kirsten Dial, and Pat Flaagan. For additional information on the Board, please visit [www.larims.org](http://www.larims.org).

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## President's Message



**Becky Smith**  
**2008 President**  
**Los Angeles**  
**Chapter**  
**Board of Directors**

As a Chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society, our primary goals are to promote the discipline of risk management and foster educational and professional development of risk managers. As Chapter President, I can assure you that the L.A. Chapter's Board of Directors is working hard to bring you the very best of events and professional development in 2008. To better understand your needs, we have posted two short surveys on our website homepage at [www.larims.org](http://www.larims.org). One is a general survey, while the other is specific to our periodic luncheons, and both are designed to raise the bar of the Chapter programming, services, and overall ability to meet membership needs.

We appreciate your membership and hope you will become involved in a committee or attend one of our events in 2008 and beyond.

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## The Salvation Army "Adopt-A-Family" Success

Parents Elizabeth and Mariano and their three children, 14 year old Mikey, 12 year old Amanda, and 4 year old Mia, were living in a Salvation Army emergency shelter in November of 2007. They lost everything they had when they moved into the shelter because they had nowhere to store their belongings. Elizabeth has a condition that has impacted the entire family, yet they are determined to stay together. Through the Salvation Army, they were granted a housing voucher that helped them move into their own apartment at the end of November, and through the generous donations of the Los Angeles Chapter of RIMS and associated membership, they were provided with over \$1,000 worth of clothing, house wares, grocery store gift cards, school supplies, and other essentials for the holidays.

This was the Los Angeles Chapter's first time to participate in The Salvation Army Family Services Adopt-A-Family Program, but hopefully not the last. If you would be interested in actively participating in this event in 2008, please contact a RIMS Board member so that we may contact you in November. We will be looking for help in collecting donations, purchasing items, wrapping gifts and delivering the gifts to the Salvation Army location in downtown Los Angeles.

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## Dennis Healy - Presenter at National RIMS Convention in San Diego

Board member Dennis Healy will be presenting at the RIMS National Convention in San Diego. The topic of the session is "Risk Assessment: The Carrier's Perspective and What's in it for the Risk Manager."

Dennis is the Director of Risk Management for the Los Angeles Newspaper Group, and he will be presenting with Atis V. Zikmanis, Senior Account Consultant with Liberty Mutual Insurance.

This session is designed for new and seasoned risk professionals alike who want to sharpen skills in risk assessment/initiatives to reduce overall operations risk. A mini-workshop will illustrate key points and afford a chance to practice risk assessment.

We hope to see you there!



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## Annual Golf Tournament - Save the Date

The 2008 Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for **Wednesday**, May 21<sup>st</sup>. More details to follow.

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## Resource Articles

Please visit our website: [www.larims.org](http://www.larims.org) for new RESOURCE articles which include:

- Governor's Budget Proposal for Wildland Firefighting Initiative
- CHP News – New Rules for the Road in 2008.

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## Los Angeles Chapter Raises \$24,000 for Spencer Educational Foundation

### Funds to be Used for Student Enrichment Programs, Scholarships and University grants

**NEW ORLEANS, L.A., April 30, 2007** – Spencer Educational Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to supporting undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students in the risk management and insurance disciplines, announced today at the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS) 2007 Annual Conference & Exhibition that it received a \$24,000 donation from the RIMS Los Angeles Chapter. The funds will be used to supplement risk and insurance management student enrichment programs, scholarships and university grants.

The RIMS Los Angeles Chapter gathered risk professionals from the region on March 4, 2007 at the Santa Anita Racetrack for "A Day at the Races". Participants enjoyed races, a raffle and took part in numerous race-themed activities on the infield.

"It was a proud day for our industry," says Steve Wilder, vice president of risk management for the Walt Disney Company and member of the RIMS Los Angeles Chapter, "as we all worked together to achieve a tremendous result for Spencer Educational Foundation."

The event was under the leadership of the RIMS Los Angeles Chapter as well as a committee established with members from Chubb, Fireman's Fund, Ace, Gallagher, Willis, Liberty Mutual, Marsh, AIG, FM Global, Aon, Lockton and Travelers and other RIMS leaders.

"It is with much appreciation that the Foundation accepts the donation from the RIMS Los Angeles Chapter," says Donna L. Galer, chairwoman of Spencer Educational Foundation. "The Chapter's unwavering support of the Foundation throughout the years demonstrates their dedication to the future of the risk profession. The funds raised will benefit the many programs that the Foundation offers to promising risk and insurance management students."

"We applaud the RIMS Los Angeles Chapter's support of our mission," says Thomas R. Tizzio, Sr., honorary fundraising chairman for Spencer Educational Foundation. "Their commitment to educating the next generation of risk and insurance management professionals shows they are dedicated to the advancement of the industry."