

# MEMBERSHIP Matters

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July - August, 2009



## FSBIT MOVES TO NEW, LARGER BUILDING

(Editor's Note). The following article is based on an email exchange with Mark McKinney, Director of Risk Management for the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust.)

The board of the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) came to the realization in 2008 that the pool was running out of space in the building they owned. The Trust had occupied that property since 1999. The pool has 20 employees providing in-house claims, loss control, and risk management services in addition to general administration for its property, casualty and workers' compensation programs. FSBIT also provides TPA services to some school districts that are not in the pool.

With a stated board objective to grow the organization, additional space would be needed. Since those early 2008 discussion, the pool has added a new member and one that is using their TPA services. As Florida School Districts generally are large, even one new member can have a significant impact on the staff services. Another directive of the board to consider starting a health trust further affects the amount of space needed for pool operations.



New Building

The board considered expanding the existing building but found that the expense and limitations were not in the direction they hoped to achieve. They then we began the process of looking at buildings that were for sale but soon found most would require extensive remodeling.

After that process, the pool decided to build an entirely new facility on a nearly one-acre site the pool purchased that is one mile from its former location. While plans initially were for a two-story building, the contractor guaranteed a lease of one story for five years. It was then determined to build a three-story structure.

Staff moved to the new building on May 11.



Back of Building

The building has 16,300 square feet of space each floor divided evenly. FSBIT occupies two floors with offices we expansion space on both floors if needed. Each employee has an office except for bill review and claims intake who are in cubicles. In keeping with the current emphasis on wellness programs, the building features a work out room that has a commercial tread mill, elliptical machine, and a weight circuit trainer along with some dumb bells. The loss control staff has a media preview area to work on their projects. The building also features a separate cooled server room for computer servers. There are 70 spaces in the parking lot.

Because of the potential for hurricane damage in the area, the building is equipped with a generator large enough to power most of the building.

AGRiP did not publish a May-June 2009 issue of *Membership Matters*.

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AGRiP Members are listed in the Membership area and their websites are available in the Links area at [www.agrip.org](http://www.agrip.org).

**THIRD ERPM COURSE TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17**

The second session of the Essentials in Risk Pool Management (ERPM) course offered through the Insurance Educational Association (IEA) has just completed the summer session. Over 80 students participated in the first two course offerings since inception in January. Another course session begins on September 17.

The nationwide program is a joint venture of AGRiP along with the National League of Cities Risk Information Sharing Consortium, the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities, and the IEA. Officials from pools that are members of any of the three organizations may enroll in the course at a discounted rate. Enrollees from AGRiP member pools may register at the special \$350 rate by using the code "1475" when registering by phone or on-line.

AGRiP worked with the other organizations to create the ERPM program to implement strategies identified by its Curriculum Development Committee. A Professional Development and Mentoring Committee that will monitor effectiveness of the ERPM, among other duties, has succeeded that committee.

The course is part of the IEA's on-line education series, with live interaction with an instructor and weekly guest experts from around the country in the field of risk pooling discussing various topics. Guests and topics scheduled for the next course include:

- The Role of the Pool Manager - Jan DeGracia, CPCU, ARM, Executive Director, North Bay Schools Insurance Authority - Fairfield, CA
- Actuarial Studies - Gary Josephson, FCAS, MAAA, Consulting Actuary, Milliman and Associates - Milwaukee, WI
- Financial Stability of a Pool - Shawn Bubb, CPA, Director of Insurance Montana School Board Association
- Underwriting and Rating Considerations - Matt Jordan - Underwriting Manager, Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool
- Process for Evaluating Excess Insurers, Excess Risk Pools and Reinsurers - Bill Heberton, President, NLC Mutual Insurance Company, Washington, DC
- Bylaws and Pooling Agreements - John Nielsen, ARM, CEO, Ohio Transit Pool and President, Transit Reinsurance, Ltd
- Leadership and Management - Richard Coskren, CPCU, Founder and Principal Windsong Consulting Services and former IEA President, Alton Bay, NH
- Change, People, and Personal Growth - Richard Coskren, CPCU, CEO, Polestar Performance Programs, Inc., located in Doylestown, PA
- Understanding Financial Reporting, Insurance Accounting and How to Use Your GASB Claim Schedules- James Marta, CPCU, ARM Principal James Marta and Company Certified Public Accountants, Carmichael, CA
- Orientation to Property and Casualty Insurance- David Blakesley, CPCU, ARM, Consultant, San Francisco, CA

Serving as moderator for the course is Victor Lorch, ARM, an instructor in the ARM on-line program for the IEA. Lorch is a retired public entity Risk Manager, former Pool Manager, and owner of M. R. Lorch Insurance and Risk Management Consulting Inc. located in Hemet, CA.

The fall program is undergoing some revisions from the original format, based upon feedback from prior students. New topics are being added on Public Entity Loss Exposure, Risk Management, and Litigation, replacing Insurance Accounting and How to Use GASB Claim Schedules. These topics are as a separate track at no additional charge, along with another session on Orientation to Property and Casualty Insurance. The course is 2 weeks, with a break in October during the week when AGRiP and NLC-RISC have separate conferences.

Additional information on the ERPM certificate course is available from the IEA website at [http://www.ieatraining.com/courses/course\\_detail.asp?QS=ARPM601](http://www.ieatraining.com/courses/course_detail.asp?QS=ARPM601).

## 2009 Governance & Leadership Conference

A Conference for governing board members, staff, ASRP Partners and all others who have an interest or stake in the governance and leadership process for public entity risk and benefits pools.

# POOLING 10.0 - THE PERFECT FIT



*Grand Hyatt & Hyatt at Olive 8*

Seattle, WA

October 19-21, 2009

Brochure and Registration online at [www.agrip.org](http://www.agrip.org)

ASRP  
405-567-2611  
PO Box J, Provo, UT 84604

Three pools were awarded RECOGNITION plaques at the AGRiP Institute for Management and Leadership. City County Insurance Services (CIS) of Salem, Oregon gained RECOGNITION for the first time, while the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (NPAIP) and the Public Agency Compensation Trust (PACT) both of Carson City, Nevada were renewals. The AGRiP Advisory Standards RECOGNITION application process

is a rigorous review that seeks to determine if a pool's documented policies and practices, organizational (foundational or organic) documents, as well as all contracts or agreements with outside providers, meet AGRiP's standard for RECOGNITION. For more information contact Bill Tackett, Director of Membership Services at [btackett@agrip.org](mailto:btackett@agrip.org).



Job Postings for positions with public entity pools are listed on [www.agrip.org](http://www.agrip.org). There is no charge for such listings. To list a position, email Harold Punford at [hpunford@agrip.org](mailto:hpunford@agrip.org).

### Activities Calendar

**AGRiP Governance and Leadership Conference**  
October 19-21, 2009  
Grand Hyatt Seattle  
Seattle, WA

**AGRiP Spring Conference**  
March 22-24, 2010  
Hyatt Regency  
Irvine, CA

**Twelfth Annual AGRiP Pooling Track**  
Held at PRIMA's Annual Conference  
June 6-9, 2010  
Orlando, FL

**AGRiP Institute for Management and Leadership**  
August 16-18 2010  
Semiahmoo, WA

Additional information for AGRiP Conferences and Institutes are listed in the SEMINARS area at [www.agrip.org](http://www.agrip.org).

### *2009 AGRiP Institute a Huge Success*

The 2009 AGRiP Institute for Management and Leadership rose above others.

Eighty-nine representatives from 56 pools in 24 states plus two national pools attended the August 3-5 AGRiP Institute in Burlington, VT.

Attendees participated in interactive exercises that allowed them to clarify their organization's DNA and provide them with a GPS (Guide to Proposed Strategies) system for making big and small strategic decisions. The clarity that resulted will allow the organizations to create real, less stressful growth, even in a changing environment.



### *2010 AGRiP Institute for Management & Leadership*



The 2010 AGRiP Institute for Management and Leadership will be August 16-18 in Semiahmoo, WA.

Membership matters is a newsletter for Members of the Association of Governmental Risk Pools. To comment or contribute articles, contact:  
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