

MEMBERSHIP Matters

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FOEHL AND HARVEY NEW AGRiP BOARD MEMBERS



John Foehl



David Harvey

John Foehl, President and CEO of Government Entities Mutual, Inc (**GEM**) based in Concord, NH and **David Harvey**, Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Self Insurance Fund (**FSSIF**) in Tallahassee, FL will become members of the AGRiP Board of Directors on January 1. The AGRiP Board recently declared that they were selected when no other candidates filed by the deadline for the annual election of board members. They will begin standard four year terms on the nine member board. (All current AGRiP board members are listed on Page 2).

They succeed retiring directors **Steve James**, Deputy Director of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (**MABE**) and **Terry Norwood**, President and CEO of the Midwest Public Risk (**MPR**) pool in Kansas City, MO.

The following is from the nominations submitted for Foehl and Harvey.

John Foehl

“What would you consider to be the most significant issues facing intergovernmental pooling?”

“I see them as the following:

- What will be the redefined role of public entity pools for the next 20 years?
- How will technology impact the delivery of services and benefits to pool members, now and in the future?
- How do pools address the need for succession planning, mentoring, and skill development for future public entity pool leaders?
- What impact will regulation have on the future of public entity pooling, and how can pools successfully prepare to deal with these issues?

“The biggest issue is redefining the role of public entity pools for the next 20 years. The majority of public entity pools were formed during a period of time when commercial insurance was either non-existent or too expensive. While we may see the return of hard markets, I believe that these will be fleeting due to the existence of private equity and hedge fund money. Therefore the comparative advantage of pricing may no longer hold. We must look to redefine what constitutes “success” for public entity pools. Appropriate use and leveraging of technology will be critical to achieving this success.

(continued on page 2)

Issue In this

WC Think Tank . . . 2

AGRiP Board
of Directors2

Activities to
Calendar3

POOLSIDE 3

**AGRiP
Board**

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Terry Norwood, ARM
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Michael Rhyner, ARM
Michigan Municipal Risk
Management Authority

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Assurance Group

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Alliance of Schools for
Cooperative Insurance
Programs (CA)

AGRiP Members are listed in the **Membership** area and their websites are available in the **Links** area at www.agrip.org.

PERMA FORMS NEW WORKERS COMP THINK TANK

(Editor's Note. The following article is an edited version of information provided by Betty A. DiMaria, Executive Director, Workers' Compensation Policy Institute, and Chief Performance Officer, for Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA) a municipal workers' compensation risk pool in New York)

PERMA has formed a new affiliate, the Workers' Compensation Policy Institute, to study workers' comp-related policy issues and how they affect services, costs, and property taxes in New York public entities.

New York's workers' compensation costs have exceeded the national average for many years, only to be intensified by reform legislation in 2007. Over the past four years, maximum weekly benefits have increased more than 90 percent, and measures that were promised to contain costs have not done so. Permanent partial disability (PPD) cases remain largely uncapped, state assessments have increased despite the closure of the second injury fund, and promised guidelines on medical treatments and loss of wage earning capacity are in their infancy.

Benefits now increase annually, and are indexed to two-thirds of the average weekly wage of all New York employees (yes, that includes the salary of the Chairman of Goldman Sachs and all other Wall Street workers). Additionally, a statewide law just enacted caps local property tax increases at 2%. Clearly, the municipalities in New York State are struggling to provide best-practice safety programs and compensation benefits to their employees.

The Workers' Compensation Policy Institute will shed light on this overlooked public policy area. The Institute will collect data, conduct surveys, develop white papers, sponsor lectures and other public events, and monitor and evaluate workers' compensation issues. It will share its insights with municipal leaders, policy makers, journalists, and other opinion leaders across New York State and beyond.

The Institute will seek input from state and national public entity associations as it undertakes its efforts. The Institute looks forward to collaborating with AGRIP and its members. More information about the institute is available at www.wcpinstitute.org. DiMaria may be contacted at bdimaria@wcpinstitute.org or 518-220-0306.

New Board Members (continued from page 1)

"Absent any pricing leverage, and given that we are most probably entering a period of reduced fiscal leverage, the question becomes exactly how do public entity pools differentiate themselves in the next decade? I believe that this problem is compounded by demographics. As the original founders and municipal officials retire they are being replaced by a generation that was not even working during the last crisis. Succession planning and training of future leaders is imperative."

Please list additional information that would be useful to those voting in the election, including what you bring to AGRiP and how you would assist in promoting the interests of intergovernmental pooling.

"I believe that AGRiP should re-examine its own mission in conjunction with the succession planning that is on-going. My background includes working with a number of boards and associations grappling with the impact of strategic changes in their environments. I would bring this knowledge to the AGRiP Board if elected."

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE POOLSIDE

Edith Merila has been appointed as Executive Director/General Counsel of Transit Mutual Insurance Corporation of Wisconsin (TMI) pool. She succeeds NancyLee (Nance) Kretzman who is retiring on June 30. Merila has handled legal work for the pool for a number of years either in private practice or since October 2003 as full time General Counsel.



After six years **Joe Constantino** has returned to the Wyoming Association of Risk Management (WARM) as Executive Director. He succeeds **Denise Freeman**. Since leaving WARM he has been the Director of Risk for American Residential Communities, a national real estate company headquartered in Denver CO.



In early 2011, George Hills Company (GHC), Willis Pooling and Jenifer McDonald partnered to submit a response to a proposal for JPA management services. During the process, a discussion took place on the changing environment and needs facing California's risk management JPAs. Their perception was that although every JPA is unique, they each face many of the same challenges. Or do they?

The result of the group's discussion and professional curiosity, as well as concern for today's economic conditions and desire to contribute something to the public entity risk pooling community, was to undertake a joint project to interview nine JPA pool managers about industry trends, issues and concerns. The product of that effort is a 47 page paper delivered to the survey respondents titled *It's a Small World – A Discussion of Issues and Challenges Facing JPA's Today*. A meeting of the JPA managers who responded is being planned to continue the conversations. A copy of the report is available at www.agrip.org under the SERVICES tab in the Articles of Interest area's Other Topics of Interest category.

Kathy Kettering with the Merlino & Associates, Inc actuarial firm in Norcross, GA, is a new AGRiP Partner member.



A number of pools have recently qualified for RECOGNITION for meeting the best practice equivalents to the AGRiP Advisory Standards. Four received a three-year extension of their existing RECOGNITION by demonstrating continued compliance with the standards. These pools are Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company (CVMIC) of Wisconsin; Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TML IRP), Yolo County Public Agency Risk Management Insurance Authority (YCPARMIA) in California, and the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund (TWCARMF).

Initial RECOGNITION has been awarded to the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TACRMP). A renewal application from the Utah Counties Insurance Pool (UCIP) is undergoing the standard review process.



*Some of the pools recently receiving RECOGNITION for compliance with the AGRiP Advisory Standards were awarded plaques at the October, 2011, Governance and Leadership Conference in Atlanta. Receiving the plaque for the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund (TWCARMF) is **Greg Womack**, Program Executive (left) from **Brett Davis**, chairman of the Membership Practices Committee and CEO and President of the Park District Risk Management Agency (PRDMA) in Illinois.*

Job Postings for positions with public entity pools are listed on www.agrip.org. There is no charge for such listings. To list a position, email Harold Pumford at hpumford@agrip.org.

Activities Calendar

AGRiP Spring Conference
March 5-7, 2012
Phoenix, AZ

Fourteenth Annual AGRiP Pooling Track
Held at PRIMA's Annual Conference
June 3-6, 2012
Nashville, TN

AGRiP Institute for Management and Leadership
August 6-8, 2012
Colorado Springs, CO

AGRiP Governance and Leadership Conference
October 15-17, 2012
Newport Beach, CA

Additional information for AGRiP Conferences and Institutes are listed in the SEMINARS area at www.agrip.org.

David Harvey

“What would you consider to be the most significant issues facing intergovernmental pooling?”

- Integrity of management at all levels of pool fiduciaries.
- Open and transparent public relations throughout all facts of government pooling.
- Legislative monitoring and awareness of all activity that would adversely affect public pooling.
- Accurate reserve calculations and defensibility and justification for those calculations.

Please list additional information that would be useful to those voting in the election, including what you bring to AGRiP and how you would assist in promoting the interests of intergovernmental pooling.

“I served as Sheriff of Wakulla County for 35 years and as a founding Board Manager for the Florida Self Insurance Pools for the past 32 years. During that time I served as Chairman of the Pool for the past 20 years. I was hired as Executive Director on October 1, 2011. I have had extensive lobbying experience on behalf of the Sheriffs through the Florida legislative for both law enforcement and our insurance pools.

I understand promoting organizations and its members. Public relation is key to success of all organizations and individuals. I have won 11 elections and serving as Sheriff for the past 35 years has taught me many techniques for achieving success and I believe I can bring that skill set to AGRiP.”

Membership matters is a newsletter for Members of the Association of Governmental Risk Pools. To comment or contribute articles, contact:
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**“... to unite
the pooling
community
to achieve
excellence in
pool
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and
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Association of Governmental Risk Pools

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