

Jim Towns, SDRMA CEO Retiring



On September 15, 2009, a letter was sent to all SDRMA members announcing that Chief Executive Officer Jim Towns is retiring from SDRMA to pursue a much slower paced life. Jim set his retirement date for December 31, 2009.

During his twenty-one years of service, SDRMA evolved from a single coverage program with 170 members to one with expanded coverage providing services to over 600 agencies. SDRMA's service portfolio and membership has flourished to include workers' compensation, health benefits, numerous successful business partnerships and a state-of-the-art member focused risk management system. He leaves SDRMA recognized as one of the state's strongest public entity risk management programs. Our membership is at an all time high and financial ratings and management practices exceed industry benchmarks.

To ensure SDRMA's continued success and to facilitate a seamless management transition, the SDRMA Board of Directors in collaboration with Jim, developed (and implemented) a three-year strategic business and succession plan. With the assistance of SDRMA's highly talented and committed staff, we believe the transition to new leadership will occur smoothly and that we will continue to excel in serving our members.

While Jim's departure is certainly a loss, we are pleased to announce that our Chief Administrative Officer, Greg Hall has been selected by the SDRMA Board of Directors to assume the position of CEO January 1, 2010. Greg joined SDRMA's executive management team in January 2006 and was instrumental in launching SDRMA's health benefits program, as well as developing increased technology capabilities to enhance member services. We are confident that Greg's strong special district background, as well as proven leadership will successfully lead SDRMA into the future. SDRMA remains committed to serving our members' best interest by providing member focused service, maximum coverage protection and innovative risk management solutions.

Please join the SDRMA Board of Directors in extending Jim our sincere gratitude for his tireless public service commitment, leadership and loyalty to SDRMA and for leaving behind a strong and well-managed organization.

SDRMA 2009 Board Election Results

The SDRMA Board of Directors consists of seven directors elected from member districts participating in SDRMA's Property/Liability and Workers' Compensation Programs. Our Board of Directors are either board members or managers of member agencies and establishes policy, direction and vision for SDRMA. The current SDRMA Board of Directors are:

- Ken Sonksen, President – Sanger-Del Rey Cemetery District
- John Yeakley, Vice President – Bear Valley Community Services District
- John Woolley, Secretary – Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- David Aranda, Director – Stallion Springs Community Services District
- Jerry Ledbetter, Director – Alameda County Water District
- Thomas Lewis, Director – Trinity County Waterworks No. 1
- William Miller, Director – North of the River Municipal Water District

There were two directors' seats up for election for 2010. The newly elected SDRMA directors are:

Jean Bracy, SDA – Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. Jean is currently the Director of Administrative Services for the district. Jean has worked in the public sector for twenty years. Mojave Desert AQMD has been a member of our Property/Liability program since 1998 and the Workers' Compensation Program since 1999.

Muril N. Clift, CPCU, CLU – Cambria Community Services District. Muril is currently serving as a Director for the Cambria CSD. Muril has been professionally



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Officers

Ken Sonksen, President, Sanger-Del Rey Cemetery District
John Yeakley, Vice President, Bear Valley Community Services District
John Woolley, Secretary, Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Members of the Board

David Aranda, Stallion Springs Community Services District
Jerry Ledbetter, Alameda County Water District
Thomas Lewis, Trinity County Waterworks District #1
Bill Miller, North of the River Municipal Water District

Consultants

Lauren Brant, Public Financial Management
David Ruff, Forward Management, LLC
Ann Siprelle, Best Best & Krieger, LLP
David McMurchie, McMurchie Law
Glenn Evans, Pacific Actuarial Consultants
Anne Petrides, Towers Perrin
Catherine Gon, California Bank and Trust
Jim Marta, CPA, Auditor
Karl Snearer, Apex Insurance Agency
Doug Wozniak, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.

SDRMA Staff

Jim Towns, ARM, Chief Executive Officer
Greg Hall, ARM, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Paul Frydendal, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Timoney, Chief Risk Officer
Barbara Tyler, Claims/Loss Prevention Manager
Nicole Rushing, Senior Business Analyst
Ellen Doughty, Senior Member Services Representative
Karen Lafferty, AIC Senior Claims Examiner
Shawn Vang, Accounting Technician
Tiffany Henderson, Claims Assistant
Alana Batzianis, Administrative Assistant
Wendy Tucker, Administrative Assistant

involved in the commercial insurance industry for 38 years and has previously served on several public agency boards. Cambria CSD has been a member of our Property/Liability Program since 1986 and the Workers' Compensation program since 2004.

Current SDRMA Board President Ken Sonksen and Director Tom Lewis did not seek re-election to the SDRMA Board. Ken is the general manager of the Sanger-Del Rey Cemetery District in Fresno County. Ken has been dedicated to serving the needs of special districts for more than twenty years and has been an SDRMA board member since 1993 serving in various capacities including board president.

Tom Lewis has served as a SDRMA director since 2002, representing Trinity County Waterworks No.1 in Trinity County. Tom retired from a 30 year career in fire prevention and continues to serve on boards and committees for numerous community organizations.

Please join us in thanking both Ken and Tom for their many years of valuable service and dedication to special districts throughout California. They will be missed!

Annual Safety Awards

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of SDRMA we would like to thank the CSDA Board of Directors and staff for a very successful conference in Indian Wells. During the conference, SDRMA sponsored six individual training sessions. SDRMA members in both the Property/Liability and Workers' Compensation programs attending the individual sessions earned Credit Incentive Points (reducing their annual premiums) for their agency's participation at the conference.

On Wednesday morning of the conference, SDRMA sponsored the breakfast session, which included a presentation from Jeff Noel, Business Programs Facilitator of the Disney Institute on "Change Leadership." Also at the breakfast session, the SDRMA Earl F. Sayre (Property/Liability Program) and McMurchie (Workers' Compensation Program) Excellence in Safety Awards were presented. The SDRMA Board of Directors annually recognizes our members' efforts in both programs for their commitment to safety and loss prevention in the workplace. SDRMA currently has 432 members in the Property/liability Program and 347 members in the Workers' Compensation Program. Criteria used in selecting the 2009 Award Recipients included: length of membership in SDRMA; total credit incentive points earned; members' loss ratio and total losses paid over the last five years.

EARL F. SAYRE EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY AWARD – PROPERTY/LIABILITY PROGRAM

Small Member: Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region (SCOR)

A member of the Property/Liability Program since 1986, Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region (SCOR), located in Butte County is a Joint Powers Authority formed in 1973 by the City of Oroville, Lake Oroville Area – Public Utilities District and the Thermalito Irrigation District to provide a wastewater treatment facility for the greater Oroville region.

Large Member: United Water Conservation District

A member of the Property/Liability Program since 2005, United Water Conservation District located in Ventura County was formed in 1927 and restructured as the United Water Conservation District in 1950. The agency's focus continued to be maintaining water quality and conserving critical supplies. United Water serves as the conservator of surface water and groundwater resources and provides water services to several communities.

MCMURCHIE EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY AWARD – WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Small Member: Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority

A member of SDRMA since 2001, the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA), located in Santa Clara County provides the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno and Santa Clara with enforcement of animal control laws, animal cruelty investigations, education and outreach programs, volunteer programs, care of injured, lost and abandoned companion animals.

Large Member: West Kern Water District

A member of SDRMA since 2003, West Kern Water District is located in Taft, California has the responsibility for providing drinking water for the surrounding communities as well as providing large amounts of water for numerous electric cogeneration plants in the area.

The Board of Directors and staff would like to congratulate all of the 2009 Excellence in Safety Award recipients!

SAVE THE DATE

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Spring SDRMA Claims/Education Day will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at the Red Lion Inn, Sacramento. ▲