Annual Meeting Rides High with a Spirited Western Theme

“Don’t delay! Make your reservation by July 31. For special requests, contact Denise McGinn at 517-333-3628 or email associationg93@aol.com.

He turned healthy nutrition and exercise into a passion that propelled him to the top of the world of body building, earning him titles such as Mr. International Universe, Mr. World and more than 50 others.

Nielsen has authored several books, including Growing Up Strong, Will of Iron and Guide to a Healthier Life. He also hosts a nationally syndicated TV series, “Peter’s Principles.” Nielsen’s message that fitness can be simple and fun resonates from the sickest child to the healthiest adult.

Jo Litchen: Reboot to Stay Focused, Energized and More Productive

Ever wished you could keep going and going like the Energizer® bunny? Dr. Jo Litchen, known as America’s “on-the-go health guru,” will share proven health tips to keep up your energy all day long. An accomplished author, speaker, and media spokesperson, Dr. Jo has made a career of helping busy people stay healthy, sane, and productive.

John Powers: Passion and Promises

In the first of two sessions, John Powers draws on his latest book, Odditude (Finding the Passion for Who You Are and What You Do) to describe the difference between work-a-holics who put all their time into a job and love-a-holics who use their enthusiasm, creativity, and human spirit to forge a career. Loving who you are and what you do, Powers says, is the secret to a long and successful career.

In his second presentation, Powers challenges us to make good on the promises we keep to ourselves. He’ll teach you how to achieve more with “power features” such as discovering the real audience for whom you are performing, producing at crunch time, and learning to pull the trigger of success.
Technology Upgrades Keep MMRMA Responsive to Members

by Michael Rhyner

LIKE THE LARGER public entity pooling and insurance industries, MMRMA continues to upgrade its operations through the use of emerging technologies.

Organizations that don’t embrace technology soon fall behind their competitors and risk becoming obsolete. MMRMA recognizes this important reality, which is why our Governance Manual includes this long-term goal:

“To utilize information technology to enhance communication, capture operational efficiencies and ensure state-of-the-art cost-effective delivery of services to members.”

Comprehensive Software Upgrades Underway

Reviews of our basic business systems showed that they had become dated and lacked the functionality to support best practices. As a result, we have begun a long-term effort to upgrade our business software for underwriting, finance, and claims.

The new software will enable us to conduct detailed risk analyses, modeling projections, trending analysis, and specialized reporting.

Upgrades to our business software will provide for high-level risk analyses and support best practices in underwriting, finance, and claims.

Publications Move Online

MMRMA’s publications, including the Risk Journal and National News Roundup, are archived on the site, and we use its member contact and subscription information to distribute these important communications via email. In fact, this August 2011 issue of the Risk Journal is the first to be distributed exclusively via email instead of regular mail.

As we approach the site’s one-year anniversary, we are planning to add further enhancements to the way we handle member communications. For example, we will be implementing a survey tool to enable members to give us feedback about our programs and services. In addition, as we implement our new claims administration software, we will be able to improve member access to loss data.

Log On

Because MMRMA’s website is a primary method for communication and information dissemination, it is vital that all Member Representatives obtain a login name and password for access. If you don’t yet have one, go to mmrma.org, click on Member Login at the right of your screen, and “Request a Login.” You’ll go to a screen where you can submit your contact information. Once approved, your login information will be emailed to you.

If you have any questions or need help logging in, contact Communications Specialist Tamara Christie at 734-513-0300 or tchristie@mmrma.org.

All Member Representatives should obtain a login name and password for access to MMRMA’s website, your source for essential information.

www.mmrma.org
The Granddaddy of All Advisory Committees Stands Strong

By Bill Page, Senior Risk Control Consultant

Early in 1983, just a few years after MMRMA's creation, the first meeting of its first advisory committee was called to order.

Now in its 28th year, the Lower Peninsula Law Enforcement Advisory Committee is still going strong, the granddaddy of MMRMA advisory committees. Only one current participant was present when the committee began: attorney Chris Johnson of Johnson, Rosati, LaBarge, Aseltyne & Field continues to offer his expertise as an advisor to the committee.

In its early days, committee members included police chiefs, sheriffs, and an attorney. A sister committee was established in 1986 for the Upper Peninsula, and the two committees continue to this day. The Lower Peninsula Law Enforcement Committee meets quarterly to discuss the liabilities and exposures that confront police officers each day: deadly force, pursuit driving, sudden death in custody, tactical encounters, use of force, and many more.

Committee actions are based on three fundamental risk management principles:
> Identification of exposures
> Analysis of risk exposures
> Implementation of risk control techniques to address these exposures.

**Accomplishments**
During my tenure with MMRMA, I’ve witnessed the transformation of committee members into exceptional risk managers. By coming together as experts to discuss, analyze, and research solutions to problematic risks, they have contributed to the professionalism of law enforcement statewide.

The LP Law Enforcement Advisory Committee has helped contribute to MMRMA’s statewide and national reputation of excellence. The committee has promoted police professionalism and helped reduce the frequency and severity of losses.

Members consistently value the committee's influence and scope. The late Police Chief William Corbett, past committee chair (1997–2000), with more than 54 years of police experience in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Port Huron, told me that, of all the committees he’s served on, “This is the best police forum there is.”

**Selection and Service**
Committee members bring a wealth of experience, holding leadership positions with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) and the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association (MSA).

Since 1998, the executive directors of the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association and the Michigan Commission On Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) have been regular attendees.

Over time, MSA and MMRMA have become recognized partners, promoting both law enforcement and national jail workshops and initiatives.

Committee members are appointed by the MMRMA Board Chair in consultation with the Committee Chair and in accordance with MMRMA’s Committee Policy.

**FAST FACTS**

Longest Serving Participant
Chris Johnson (‘83–present)

Longest Term (7 years)
Gary Goss, Police Chief, City of Farmington (1994–2001)

Longest Law Enforcement Service (54 years)
William Corbett, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Port Huron

Served as both Chief and Sheriff: Jerry Van Alyst, Bay City Chief (1987–91) and Bay County Sheriff (1992–95)

Total Members Since Inception: 45

Total Meetings Held to Date: 155

continued on page 4
MMRMA Handbook Earns Top PRIMA Award

AT THE NATIONAL PRIMA conference in June, Chuck Schwab, MMRMA Director of Risk Management, accepted a first place award in the Pooling category for MMRMA’s Risk Management of Special Events Handbook.

The handbook gives detailed guidelines for conducting safe, successful special events of all types and sizes.

Congratulations to MMRMA’s Risk Management team, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and Risk Control Consultant Terry Van Doren for this outstanding achievement.

Accepting the PRIMA award, from left: Director of Risk Management Chuck Schwab; Al Buckenmeyer, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee chairperson; and Risk Control Consultant Terry Van Doren.

To download a PDF of the handbook, log into the Members Only section of mmrma.org, click to expand the Model Policies and Procedure Brochures folder, then browse under the Parks and Recreation section.

MMRMA’s First Advisory Committee, continued from p 3

Committee members must be officers of MMRMA members as defined in the Joint Powers Agreement.

Always Looking Ahead

Day-to-day law enforcement activities are high-liability exposures with the potential for large loss payouts. Nationally, police losses account for nearly 70 percent of all city/county losses. In contrast, MMRMA member cities account for 50 percent and counties account for 63 percent of all MMRMA losses—a significant improvement upon national numbers.

The Lower Peninsula Law Enforcement Committee has played a critical role in our accomplishments to date. Its successes are also due to the dedication of past risk control consultants Mike Frayer and the late Joe Juras, as well as current consultants Mike Bertha and Kevin Denecke.

Accomplishments & Milestones

Model Policies
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Use of Force
- Less Lethal Weapons
- Restraint Chair
- Off-Duty Use of Weapons
- Citizen Complaints

Guidelines
- Mutual Aid
- American Correctional Association Core Jail Standards
- National Sheriffs’ Association Jail Initiative

Resources
- Sample Police Policies Editions I, II, III

Video Resources
- Pursuit, the Other Deadly Force
- Jail Liability

The LP and UP committees will continue to promote professionalism and reduce liability in the years to come. If I were to categorize the two committees’ past, present, and future efforts into a mission statement, it would read, “MMRMA’s Law Enforcement Advisory Committees...an investment in excellence.”