

CIS Seeks Award-Winning Inspiration

Have you been inspired lately? We have! That is why City County Insurance Services (CIS) created its annual Character and Integrity Award.

The CIS Board of Trustees has established the award to honor the inspiring dedication of four CIS staff members following a tragic bombing incident last December in Woodburn. The award was further inspired by the generous sportsmanship shown by Central Washington University softball players Mallory Holtman and Liz Wallace, when they carried Western Oregon University's Sara Tucholsky around the bases to complete a home run, even though Tucholsky had severely injured her knee while running from home plate to first base. Interested readers can find details of the incident in *Sports Illustrated* at <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1157051/1/index.htm>.

CIS invites the readers of *Local Focus* to think back over the past year. Do you know an elected official or an employee of a CIS-member city or county who has set an extraordinary example of valor, dedication and honor; or who has otherwise demonstrated exemplary integrity and professionalism?

CIS is looking for the kind of spontaneous act of character in "doing the right thing at the right time, for the right reasons" that exemplifies the kind of service and dedication that CIS seeks to achieve on behalf of its members.

Please submit the name(s) of nominees and a brief explanation of why they are a candidate for the Character and Integrity Award. CIS will accept nominations in writing through December 20, 2009. Send nominations by mail to CIS Award, c/o Julie LaMarche, 1212 Court St. NE, Salem, 97301, or by e-mail to jlamarche@cciservices.com.

The award recipient(s) will be announced at the CIS Annual Conference in February 2010.

Other CIS News:



Klein Announces Retirement

CIS Executive Director Noel Klein, who has served in this position since 1997, recently announced his intention to retire effective January 15, 2010. Klein's career has spanned 50 years of public service, including work in three countries: his native Australia, New Guinea, and since 1974, in the United

States. Before his appointment as CIS Executive Director, his assignments have included stints as a city manager, finance director, community development and urban renewal

CIS grants Harrisburg security.



The city of Harrisburg upgraded its skate park security with CIS Risk Management grant funds. City Administrator Bruce Cleeton says, without CIS **"we may have had to put it off for a year or two."**

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administrator, public works operations director, and 15 years as a lobbyist on local government issues. As a Senior Staff Associate at the League of Oregon Cities from 1977 to 1982, Noel led the effort to form the City County Insurance Services Trust and later, while city manager in Oregon City, he served on the CIS Board of Trustees.

Known for his vision and his commitment to local government—as well as a big heart and infectious sense of humor—Noel will be missed by his staff, trustees, and CIS members.

The CIS Board of Trustees appointed **Lynn McNamara**, CIS' Deputy Director, to replace Klein. McNamara has worked at CIS since 2002, serving as deputy director since 2005. Prior to joining CIS, she spent four years at the League of Oregon Cities, first as a lobbyist on finance and tax issues and later as the director of the former City Center at LOC. From 1989 to 1998, Lynn worked as associate director and chief administrator at the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, a sister organization to LOC. During her time there, she developed and directed a health insurance program for Connecticut local governments and their employees. For eight years, she was employed by the Town of Trumbull, Connecticut as director of administrative services; before that, she was Bureau chief, editor and reporter for what is now the *Connecticut Post*, a major daily newspaper in that state.

New Health Care Tax

The 2009 Legislature passed HB 2116, creating a one percent tax on health insurers based on earned premium, on hospitals and on Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. Tax proceeds will be used to fund the Oregon Health Plan and the "Health Care for All Oregon Children" program. The final bill included the option for insurers to pass the tax on to their covered members. Regence and Kaiser passed the increase on to CIS members effective October 1, 2009.

Recognizing the budget hardships facing several members, the CIS Board of Trustees recently voted to use reserves to cover the one percent medical premium increase for CIS Benefits members resulting from the passage of HB 2116. The subsidy will be in place for the balance of the 2009-10 plan year. The board's \$1.0 million commitment to fund the one percent tax is in addition to the \$6.8 million of reserves the board has already put at risk to buy down the Regence rate increase for the 2009-10 plan year. This is a one-time allocation by the board and means that members should anticipate this additional mandated cost will be built into rates for subsequent plan years.

Przybylowski Joins CIS

CIS welcomes Return to Work Specialist Moira Przybylowski, M.S., CRC. Moira has more than 20 years of experience in workers' compensation, and specializes in assisting injured employees returning to work. She will help members by facilitating positive communication between all parties, identifying transitional duty work options, preparing job analyses, fostering productive relationships with medical providers, and modifying worksites with access to re-employment incentive funds. Moira is also available to assist members in developing early return to work programs and to conduct workstation ergonomic evaluations. Find more information about Risk Management and other CIS Services at www.cciservices.com. ■

CIS grants Rogue River safety.

Children playing in Rogue River's Palmerton Arboretum will be safer, thanks to a CIS Risk Management Grant, providing additional cushioning under playground equipment. City Administrator Mark Reagles says ***the city would most likely not have been able to make the improvements without CIS grant funding.***



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