

Summer 2009

Innovative programs, personalized service

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*Scott Schimke
Risk Manager*

Greetings!

Greetings! On July 1, 2009, Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) completed its 30th year as a pre-eminent Joint Powers Author-

ity (JPA) in the State of California. From its humble inception in 1979 with 28 members, located only in Glenn County, to its current state of 176 members throughout California, it has always operated with the philosophy of providing the highest quality coverages and service at a competitive price while not sacrificing its fiscal integrity. To those members who have been here since the begin-

ning and to those members who joined us along the way I say, "Thank you very much for your continued support and faith in GSRMA."

Part of what makes GSRMA so successful is the Board's willingness to look to THE FUTURE and make changes necessary to allow the pool to continue to succeed. To that end the Board recently conducted its annual Strategic Planning Session.

Out of that process, the Board recognized that to be successful in the next 30 years, the pool needed to continue to streamline its processes. This, in turn, will increase its overall efficiency. In addition, GSRMA needed to continue to work with its membership

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Newest Members

- Cortina Creek Flood Control and Water Conservation District**
- Redwood Coast Fire Protection District**
- Dobbins-Oregon House Fire Protection District**
- Murrieta Valley Cemetery District**
- Yuba LAFCO**
- Los Carneros Water District**
- Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District**

Membership Matters

Dan Berry, Member Services Director

In the late 1970's, a perfect storm of politics and a sour economy created an insurance crisis for California public agencies. Legislation was passed to facilitate the creation of risk sharing joint powers authorities. Golden State Risk Management Authority (Glenn County Joint Powers Authority at the time) was formed as a solution to the crisis in Glenn County.

Here we are 30 years later, in the midst of political and financial turmoil in California. The situation in the late 1970's that created GSRMA was eerily similar. The good news for GSRMA mem-

bers is that despite the current "State of the State", the coverage programs and financial stability continue to be very strong.

The solutions created 30 years ago continue to provide shelter from financial and political storms. Insurance coverage is nothing but a promise to pay. GSRMA continues to have the ability to keep those promises.

For the 2009-2010 program year, members will be afforded the same high limits and excellent coverage provisions as in past years. GSRMA was created to be a member-directed, long term

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GSRMA Founding Fathers



Pictured at a recent GSRMA board meeting are left to right; Bob Bachman, Keith Hansen and Gary Krup.

Bob Bachman was the first Risk Manager of the Authority and held that position from 1979 to 1989. He provided the day-to-day management of the Authority during that time. He remained active as a consultant to the Authority until 2001. Bob provided the vision and insurance expertise

for the creation of the organization.

Keith Hansen was an original board member when the Authority was formed, and served on the board for 22 of the Authority's 30 years. Keith was president of GSRMA's board of directors for much of his tenure. Keith's commitment to fiscal responsibility has been vital to GSRMA's long term success.

Gary Krup has served as General Counsel for GSRMA since its inception and continues in that capacity today. Gary drafted the original governing documents and provides legal defense for member claims. Gary's expertise has provided immeasurable value to GSRMA.

The dedication, commitment and leadership of these individuals built the foundation for GSRMA. This foundation provides current GSRMA management clear direction for the future.

30 years of GSRMA Growth on page 3 compares GSRMA in 1979 and 2009.

Greetings! (Continued from page 1)

in regards to contributions and funding options. Several key items have already been started and/or implemented in this regard.

First, the Board modified its payment policy to allow for monthly payments with a reduced finance charge. This change significantly improved Members' cash flow situation. The Board has also directed staff to review the current contribution methodology and recommend changes for

2010/2011.

Second, the Board undertook the daunting task of completely rewriting the Joint Powers Agreement, Bylaws and associated documents. This process has been in the works since January 2009 and will soon be out to the membership for review and approval. Once approved, it will significantly streamline all aspects of GSRMA and its operations. This will improve our overall efficiency and help to keep contributions down.

Lastly, the Board recognizes that GSRMA is a member-needs driven program. Therefore, they directed staff to conduct a survey of the membership to see what areas can be improved and what additional services they need to be successful.

As we start our 31st year, I am confident that GSRMA has positioned itself as a leader in the pooling industry and will continue to be the best solution for all your insurance requirements. Stay cool and I look forward to seeing you all at our 5th Annual Fall Conference in October!

Membership Matters (Continued from page 1)

solution for insurance and risk management. For 30 years, the mission has remained unchanged.

We are extremely excited about this year's annual training day. (details are on page 4 of this

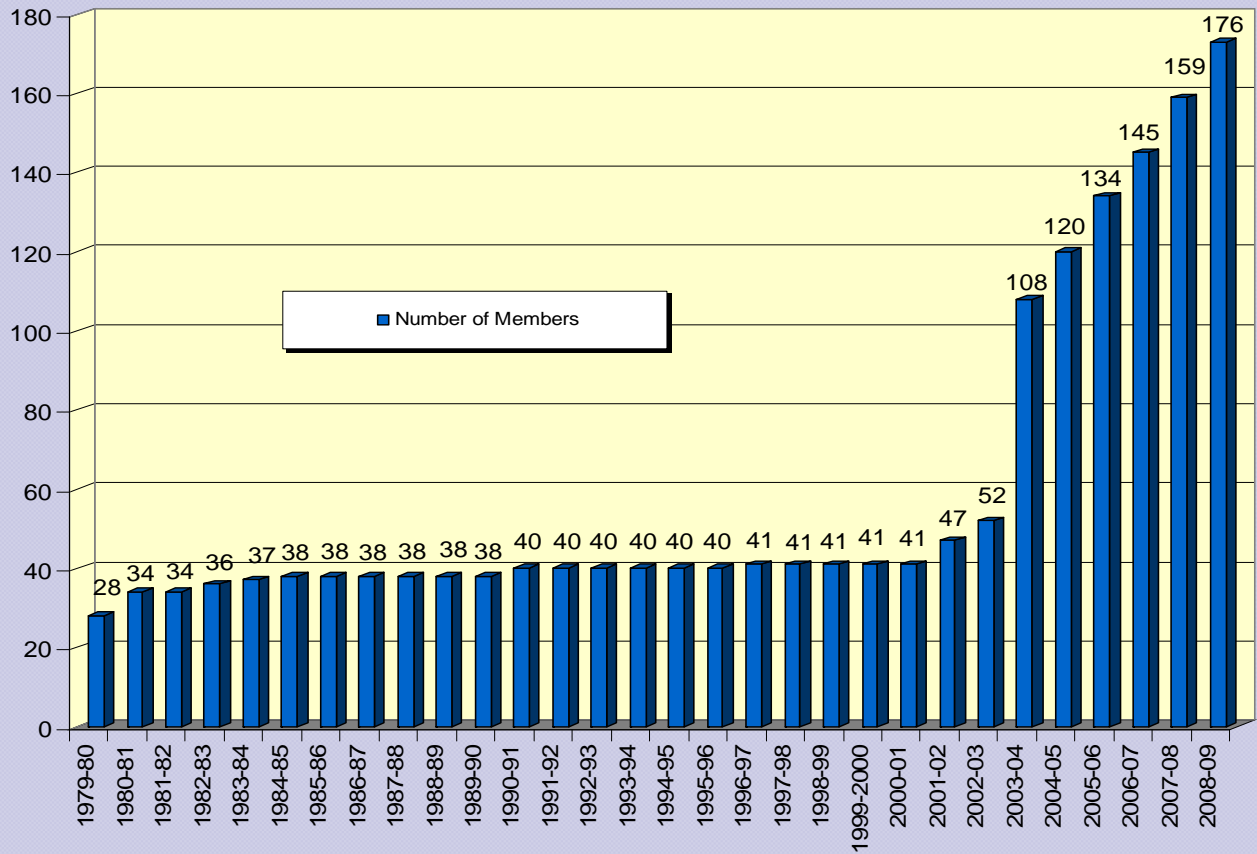
issue) This year's training will focus on employment practices. Keynote speaker Randy Pennington will provide attendees with tools to create a culture of trust and integrity within your organization.

The Rolling Hills Resort in Corning has a number of recrea-

tional opportunities. On Wednesday October 21st, some pre-conference events are being planned to take advantage of the facilities.

The Public Cemetery Alliance will focus their training on ways for districts to Protect, Promote and Prosper.

30 Years of Golden State Risk Management Growth



30 Year Historical Comparison	1979	2009
Known as	Glenn County Joint Powers Authority	Golden State Risk Management Authority
Number of Member Agencies	28	176
Annual Contributions	\$732,219	\$5,450,000
Total Assets	\$380,833	\$13,691,000

GSRMA Department Overview - Pool Management

The key to any successful governmental insurance pool is competent and experienced pool management. GSRMA's management team brings a variety of experience and practical knowledge to the organization. In addition, the team members are actively involved in professional organizations specializing in insurance pooling and risk management.

Scott Schimke leads the team as Risk Manager and Executive Director. Scott has held that position since 1989. Dan Berry manages member services and loss prevention. Dan joined GSRMA as the Assistant Risk Manager in 2001. Rick Krepelka handles finance, accounting and technical areas. Rick has been with GSRMA since 2005.

Together, they bring over 60 years of pooling, insurance, accounting and technology experience to GSRMA.

Randy Pennington Keynotes 5th Annual Training Conference



Randy Pennington

The Rolling Hills Resort in Corning, CA will be the site for GSRMA's 5th annual training conference on October 22, 2009. This year's conference will feature Randy Pennington, author of *On My Honor, I Will: Proven Principles for Integrity Driven Leadership*. The book is based on the 40 simple words of the scout oath and provides a blueprint for leading with integrity. Randy is nationally recognized as an informative and inspirational speaker.

The session is designed to build trust and inspire loyalty within your organization.

Below is an overview of the events. Once again GSRMA is proud to partner with the Public Cemetery Alliance by holding our events on consecutive days. This year, some pre-event functions are planned for October 21.

Registration for the event will be distributed in the next few weeks.

2009 Annual Training Conference Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Some pre-conference functions are in the works! This is an opportunity for members and guests to take advantage of some of the outstanding recreational facilities at Rolling Hills Resort.

- Morning - Golf Tournament at Sevillano Links Golf Course.
- Afternoon - Sport Shooting at Clear Creek Sports Club
- Evening Reception



Rolling Hills Resort

Thursday, October 22, 2009

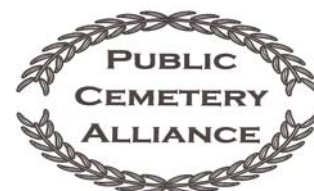
GSRMA's 5th Annual member training day will be packed with valuable information. This year's focus will be on employment practices liability. Presentations will include:

- Keynote Speaker Randy Pennington
- Employment Practices Training
- Loss Prevention Tools
- Evening Vendor Reception

Friday, October 23, 2009

Public Cemetery Alliance Training and Annual Meeting will include:

- Protect, Promote, Prosper will be the theme of the training day
- Vendor Displays
- Annual Meeting and election of Board members



Good Housekeeping Makes Good Sense Mark Marshall, GSRMA Safety Officer mmarshall@gsrma.org

According to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.22, "All places of employment, passageways, store-rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition." This applies to every day maintenance as well as repairs that are needed.

Having an orderly and uncluttered workplace is essential to safety. Slippery floors, torn or frayed carpet, obstacles in aisles, and tools left lying about are just a few dangerous housekeeping hazards. A cluttered, unkempt workplace is a dangerous workplace.

Poor housekeeping habits can lead to:

- Poor employee attitudes toward safety in general.
- Slips, trips, or falls from slick, wet, or poorly maintained walking surfaces.
- Tripping hazards from im-

properly stored materials in walkways and work areas.

Workplaces where the aisles and exits are blocked or obstructed, where debris litters the floor, or tools and equipment are not put away properly have hazards built into them. Part of everyone's job should include common housekeeping tasks.

Benefits of good housekeeping include:

- Improved employee morale and improved safety culture and attitude.
- Elimination of causes of accidents and fires.
- The conservation of space, equipment, operating materials, time, and effort, making work easier for everyone and saving money.

Don't wait for a formal site safety inspection to find exam-

ples of poor housekeeping in your department. Take a little time each day to put things away and clean up at your work station.

Catch yourself before you add to housekeeping problems. Put tools or other items back where they belong. Sweep up after a messy job. Wipe up spills. Pick up and throw away all trash. An orderly workplace must be constantly maintained. It requires a conscientious effort by all employees, on a daily basis, to maintain a clean and orderly workplace.

Clean up someone else's mess today, it's good for the soul, and remember the quote of Orison Swett Marden, Founder of *Success Magazine*, "You will like yourself better when you have the approval of your conscience." Be safe!



Updates and Top Achievers

Program Enhancement - Course Interfaces

GSRMA is pleased to announce the launch of a new interface for all MemberLink training courses. With this interface, employees now have the option to view a multimedia introduction of each course, complete with video and sound. They can also take advantage of other new features, including a streamlined user interface with the ability to easily:

- **Take and save notes**
- **Access information about the content, such as course duration and references**
- **Update their settings to view or bypass the multimedia components**

These new course interfaces will be released beginning on August 10, 2009. Over the next few months, all 400 available courses will be upgraded.

Top Achieving Members

For the period of April 1– June 30, 2009, GSRMA members completed 596 MemberLink training courses!

We would like to recognize the following agencies and individuals for their efforts

Top Agencies - Courses Completed

County of Glenn—202

Ukiah Valley Fire Protection (UVFD)—185

City of Orland - 79

Top Individuals—Courses Completed

Tony DeLapo, UVFD—45

Doug Stone, UVFD - 24

Member Spotlight - Placer County Cemetery District # 1



The new Santa Clara Memorial Park office with water features in the foreground.

Placer County Cemetery District #1 has been a member since 2005. The district serves the City of Lincoln and surrounding areas of Placer County.

Lincoln has been one of the fastest growing areas in the State. To meet the future needs of the district, a beautiful new cemetery, the Santa Clara Memorial Park, has been recently completed. On July 15, 2009 the district hosted a Grand Opening of the new cemetery. The location features a state-of-the-art district office and chapel; and the grounds are highlighted by water features.

The District Manager is Peter Barmettler and the district staffs 6 full-time employees. Placer Cemetery District #1 board members are active in public cemetery associations and governance issues.

TAKE NOTE - Upcoming Events

- September 9-11, 2009 **CAJPA Fall Conference** - South Lake Tahoe, CA
- September 16, 2009 **GSRMA Board Meeting**—6 PM 247 W Sycamore Street, Willows, CA
- September 23-24, 2009 **Regional Council of Rural Counties Annual Meeting** - Squaw Valley, CA
- October 21-23, 2009 **GSRMA -PCA Annual Training Conference**—Rolling Hills Resort, Corning, CA
- November 4, 2009 **GSRMA Board Meeting**—6 PM 247 W Sycamore Street, Willows, CA

GOLDEN STATE
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