

HELP



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Spring 2006



President's MESSAGE

By Patricia A. McIntire, MS, ARM, AU

Warm spring greetings!

As the Insurance Loss Control Association (ILCA) progresses through the 2005-2006 term, I want to refresh you on some of the exciting things on which the Executive Committee has been working!

First, the ILCA 2005 Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio was a tremendous experience! Those in attendance heard from several experts on a variety of pertinent topics. Information relevant to the 2005 Annual Conference is available on the ILCA website. On behalf of the Executive Committee, congratulations and thank you to all those involved!

The following overview reflects considerations that are ongoing in 2006.

- The ILCA has retained the services of BLF Management to provide its association management expertise including:
 - Conference setup (including such details as hotel service arrangements)
 - Financial management
 - Association governance (including meeting coordination)
 - Communication management (including newsletter release)
 - Website maintenance and management

Continued on page 6



Inside:

- **Explosion Proof (EX) Label Verification**
- **Member Spotlight: Warren Philipps**
- **What's Your Position?**

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ILCA's *HELP*, Spring 2006 Table of Contents

President's Message	1
ILCA Past Presidents Listing	1
From the Executive Office.....	2
2005 Annual Conference.....	2
Explosion Proof (EX) Label Verification	5
Safety and Health Add Value	6
June Launches 2006 National Safety Month.....	7
Member Spotlight: Warren Philipps	7
What's Your Position?	9

ILCA Past Presidents

1932-33 - Hawlick, H.I. Millers Mutual of Alton	1957-59 - Ponton, G.W. Hardware Dealers Mutual	1983-84 - McCauley, W.F. Lumber Mutual
1933-34 - MacDaniel, R.D. Grain Dealers Mutual Insurance Company	1959-60 - Innes, A.M. Middlesex Mutual	1984-85 - Wass, H.S. Improved Risk Mutuals
1934-35 - Hotchin, E.E. Michigan Millers	1960-61 - Blaes, C.M. Indiana Lumbermans	1985-86 - Turner, R.W. Central Mutual
1935-36 - Chessman, W.E. Improved Risk Mutual	1961-62 - Giddens, H.H. Boston Manufacturing Mutual	1986-87 - Lebo, L.M. Devco Mutual Association
1936-37 - Rodda, W.H. Transportation Insurance Rating Bureau	1962-63 - Powers, W.H. Grain Dealers Mutual	1987-88 - Junkin, O.D. Mutual Fire Ins. Assoc. of New England
1937-38 - Hubbard, H.C. Mill Mutual	1963-64 - Ford, J.O. Nationwide	1988-89 - Shultz, B. Indiana Insurance Company
1938-39 - Bowman, L.W. Employers Mutual	1964-65 - Bates, L.E. Lumber Mutual	1989-90 - Holmes, R.K. Elevators Mutual
1939-40 - Rowley, C.M. National Retailers Mutual	1965-66 - Southwell, B.K. Michigan Millers	1990-91 - Dolceamore, A. Harleysville Mutual
1940-41 - Muller, H. Improved Risk Mutual	1966-67 - Ryder, P.H. Mutual Fire Ins. Assn. of New England	1991-92 - Rung, D. Lumber Mutual
1941-42 - Booty, J.L. Implement Dealers Mutual	1968-69 - Anderson, V.M. Employers Insurance of Wausau	1992-93 - Titter, R.R. Shelby Mutual
1942-43 - Hunt, H.L. Indiana Lumbermans	1969-70 - Marsh, H.R. Sentry Insurance	1993-94 - Paige, L. IRM Services, Inc.
1943-46 - Ross, W.C. Philadelphia Contributorship	1970-71 - Williams, R.E. Grain Dealers Mutual	1994-95 - Frawley, C.R. Harford Mutual
1946-47 - John, D.D. Mutual Fire Insurance Agency	1971-72 - Winchell, H.R. Liberty Mutual	1995-96 - Saulen, R.J. Mutual Fire Ins. Assoc. of New England
1947-48 - Baker, P.J. Michigan Millers	1972-73 - McGinnis, J.W. Kemper Insurance	1996-97 - Adolphson, Kevin Country Companies
1948-49 - Schultz, W.G. Lumbermans Mutual	1973-74 - Bolz, L.M. Improved Risk Mutuals	1997-98 - McIntyre, Terry Arkwright Mutual
1949-50 - Wingate, R.H. Liberty Mutual	1974-75 - Ellenwood, L.W. Iowa National	1998-99 - McClave, Rik Insurance Service Office
1950-51 - Cotner, W.C. Central Mutual	1975-76 - Kohl, J.A. Country Mutual	1999-00 - Frawley, C. Ron Harford Mutual
1951-52 - Dehaven, J.R. Employers Mutual	1976-77 - Thomas, J.H. Michigan Millers	2000-01 - Perry, Tom Insurance Service Office
1952-53 - Schalk, L.A. Grain Dealers Mutual	1977-78 - Juergens, J.W. Federated Insurance	2001-02 - Laskoski, Steve Charles E. Hock Associates
1953-54 - Youngstrom, E.B. Mill Owners Mutual	1978-79 - Shattuck, J.B. Liberty Mutual	2002-03 - Ruxlow, Stig Zenith Insurance Company
1954-55 - Hildreth, G.R. Liberty Mutual	1979-80 - Hathaway, R.B. Lumber Mutual	2003-04 - Finn, Dan* US Reports
1955-56 - Weiss, K. Employers Mutual	1980-81 - Katsonis, G.M. Merchants and Businessmens	2004-05 - Bell, Brock Brotherhood Mutual Insurance
1956-57 - Goodell, T.F. Barnstable County Mutual Fire Insurance	1981-82 - McKay, H.J. Kemper Insurance	
	1982-83 - Pastorius, R.L. Devco Mutual Association	

(*denotes Interim President)

From the Executive Office

Tell Us What You Think!

By Brad L. Feldman, MPA, Executive Director



The Executive Office is excited to reveal upcoming events that allow ILCA members to share their ideas about the future of the organization and to expand their continuing education.

ILCA wants to continue providing services that offer benefits to members. In an effort to meet your expectations, the Executive Office will survey current members to learn how we can improve our service. Survey questions will include your impression of the association and your satisfaction with services such as the Annual Conference, *HELP*, website, and networking opportunities, which will help improve the quality of services.

To highlight some of the membership and continuing education questions:

- How satisfied are you with the feeling of community within the association?

- What do you feel is the most important benefit you receive from being a member of the association?
- How satisfied were you with the last Annual Conference that you attended?
- What could be done to improve the conferences?
- What educational services would you like us to consider?

ILCA strives to offer a variety of continuing education opportunities. We are pleased to announce the success of our first teleseminar, "NFPA 70E & Recognizing the Arc Flash Hazard," with Scott Margolin! An order form for the audio CD of this session is available on the ILCA website, www.insurancelosscontrol.org. Simply download and complete the form, fax it to the Executive Office at (614) 221-2335, and we will send the CD with handouts to you. Thank you again to all who

participated and to our presenter. We sincerely appreciate his willingness to further educate his peers and fellow ILCA members. The 2006-2007 membership year is fast approaching. Membership renewal notices will be sent late this month. We hope you will continue to join us for the upcoming year. If you have any questions concerning your membership, please contact the Executive Office at (614) 221-9950. ■

Annual Conference Summaries

Stephen Douglas

Douglas gave a motivational speech. The title of the speech was "Cactus Rolling: Dealing with Life's Thorniest Problems."

Dan Ruminski

Ruminski's discussion included pressure sensitive 3M anti-slip tapes and floor matting of all types. He provided advice on maintenance and safety issues concerning slips and falls.

Notable projects his company completed throughout the year include outfitting some 50 Coast Guard Cutters with anti-slip tape to doing a 400 ft. special matting for the Cleveland Browns, thus providing a safe walk surface from locker room to playing field.

Discussion covered heated products for indoor and outdoor use to provide warmer, more economical, and safer winter environments. Products include:

- Heated Desk Mat - low voltage with timer to replace space heaters
- Heated Low Voltage Outdoor Stair Treads with anti-slip surface
- Outdoor Heated Ice and Snow Melting Mat with anti-slip surface
- Heated Fiberglass Modular Sidewalk for temporary heat as well as melting snow and ice

Steve Spencer

This presentation discussed various types of flooring materials, floor coverings and how their co-efficient of friction relate to slip and fall potential, as well as floor cleaning agents and their use and misuse. A floor safety assurance plan was outlined and defined for use in reducing slip and falls.

The objective of the speech was to explain the hazards of various floor surfacing materials, floor coverings, floor cleaning agents, and how they affect the potential for slips and falls and how to incorporate this knowledge into an effective floor safety program.

Annual Conference Summaries

Barbara Krecic

Krecic discussed the basic requirements of the OSHA Recordkeeping Standard 1904- how the process works, who is responsible, and how it may be applied to your clients who use staffing companies to support their industries.

Gregory B. Russell

Russell covered the following topics:

- Material handling equipment in hazardous environments.
- Risk Assessment and Area Classification
- Division I vs. Division II
- Underwriters Laboratories regulations and approvals
- Industrial truck (fork lift) applications
- EE vs. EX forklifts rating and differences
- How EE and EX forklifts work
- EX forklift maintenance and service procedures
- Stainless steel forklift construction
- Hazardous vapors and dust - airtight vs. dusttight
- Classification Groups B, C, D, E, F, and G
- Cleanroom applications

Don Bentley

Bentley discussed the industrial hygiene issues of metalworking.

George Gillespie

Gillespie provided an overview of the Ohio Utilities Protection Service and why you should "Call Before You Dig."

Topics discussed:

- I-Dig
- I-Grid
- Internet ticket delivery
- Utility damages experienced
- Damage Prevention Councils

- Membership
- "Get The Dirt" video... 7 minutes
- "Call Before You Dig" video... 12 minutes

Warren Philipps

Philipps discussed the future of the loss control position in the insurance industry. An overview was given of some key points from a recent conducted survey of 12 leading insurance loss control executives. Philipps also discussed these executives' perspectives on the problems confronted in the area of automation and attracting new young professionals to the business and retaining this talent.

The discussion moved to ideas on adding value to the loss control position - doing things above and beyond the normal expected job of completing underwriting data surveys and loss control consulting. There are things that you can be doing to add value to your position whether you work directly for the company or provide the surveys on a contracted basis. Philipps looked at some specific things you can do to add value to your job, to make loss control more valuable to the insurance industry, your company, and make your job more enjoyable. If you're not adding value, are your services really needed?

Dennis Habrat

Habrat discussed work place violence. The title of his speech was "Recognizing and Managing Aggression in the Workplace." Workplace violence is in an upswing in American business. Evidence of this is seen in the news media on a regular basis. Brush Wellman Inc recognized that turning a blind eye to the issue of aggressive behavior and workplace violence is not consistent with its obligation to provide its employees a safe and productive

workplace. Brush also recognized that workplace violence is seldom spontaneous and is preventable. Acts of workplace violence are often preceded by behavior that reveals the perpetrator's sinister intentions. To better recognize and prevent incidents of aggression that may endanger employees and reduce company efficiency, Brush adopted a "Managing Aggression in the Workplace" training program. This program gives employees the skills to recognize the early signs of mounting aggression, to intervene and defuse the aggression to prevent incidents of aggressive behavior from escalating into violence.

Patrick Bauer

Bauer discussed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the workplace. This presentation provides a general overview of AEDs: what they are, how they work, and why AEDs are needed. An AED demonstration was conducted.

A brief outline of what constitutes an effective AED placement within a business was presented. Topics reviewed included effective AED locations within a facility, AED maintenance and record keeping, employee education, and training and recommended procedures after using an AED.

Richard Watson

The following were the topics that Watson discussed:

- UL-300
- Adoption of standard and why?
- Design and fire testing by UL
- UL-300 comparison between dry chemical vs. wet chemical
- Approved UL systems and how they work
- Disapproved dry chemical systems

Annual Conference Summaries

- Manufacturer letters of discontinued dry systems
- Violations to look for
- UL fire service requirements

Jason Sullivan

Sullivan discussed fall protection and gave a demonstration on fall protection.

John Christoph

Christoph's discussion focused on a proactive hazard analysis process loss control professionals should consider when working with food service clients. The program gave an overview of the complex 2001 food code and how its principles apply to insurance professionals. The program used examples of types of hazards that loss professionals face with the food industry and how to prepare clients for a possible disaster.

Amanda Comunale

Central Sprinkler Company (Central), an affiliate of Tyco Fire Products LP, of Lansdale, PA, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a voluntary replacement program for O-Ring sprinklers. Central will provide parts and labor to replace approximately 35 million fire sprinklers with O-ring seals.

The program involves approximately 33 million "wet" sprinklers with O-ring seals manufactured by Central and approximately 2 million "dry" sprinkler heads with O-rings manufactured by Central. Also included are about 101,000 "on-off" sprinklers used in "wet" systems and sold by Gem Sprinkler Company and another 66,000 "dry" sprinklers manufactured by Star Sprinkler Inc.

Central initiated this action because it discovered that these O-ring sprinklers can degrade over time. These sprinkler heads can corrode, or minerals, salts, and other contaminants in water can affect the

rubber O-ring seals. These factors could cause the sprinkler heads to not activate in a fire. Laboratory testing has indicated that the majority of the sprinklers would operate in a fire situation, however, some required higher water pressure to activate than may be available in particular buildings.

Central is replacing each of these O-ring sprinkler heads with a free replacement Belleville seal sprinkler head. Due to the number of sprinklers involved, sprinklers will be replaced over time, with priority based on the age of the sprinklers, the population affected (e.g. hospitals and nursing homes submitting claims will be given priority), and whether the sprinklers show signs of corrosion or leakage.

Robert B. Treiber

Treiber explained NFPA 25 - Water Based Fire Protection Systems Maintenance and Testing. ■



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Explosion Proof (EX) Label Verification

By John Love

This sequence of statutory mandate and subsequent appropriate procedure with corresponding documentation is set forth below for the liability protection of the purchaser and/or the end user of Explosion Proof Forklifts. Protect your facilities and personnel from loss and liability by purchasing equipment with a documented and filed Risk Assessment Procedure as follows:

1. OSHA – OSHA Par. 1910.7 a, b
 “...NRTL means an organization which is recognized by OSHA in accordance with this section.... tests for safety, and lists or labels... equipment...”

2. NFPA – The “National Fire Protection Association” Standard 505 Par. 1.3.3 states, “The approved powered industrial trucks addressed in this standard are trucks that are listed by a testing laboratory...”

3. NRTL – There are two “Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories” that test and issue labels for Explosion Proof (EX) Forklifts.

- a. “Underwriters Laboratories” (UL) tests for Groups C, D & G
- b. “Factory Mutual” (FM) tests for Group D

4. UL 583 – The UL Standard for Electric Battery Powered Industrial Trucks

- a. Par 43.1 “A battery complying with the requirements for a Type EX battery shall be provided for a Type EX truck.”
- b. Which means, the Explosion Proof Forklift Battery must be tested and EX labeled and listed in the Hazardous Directory with the same EX Forklift Group approvals.

5. Hazardous Directory

- a. Manufacturer Verification: In directory under EX approvals
- b. Testing Group Verification: In directory under EX approvals

6. Documentation – Please see this list for your diligence and files

- a. OSHA Par. 1910.7
- b. NFPA Par. 1.3.3
- c. UL Par. 43.1
- d. EX Hazardous Directory Listing for Forklift and Group EX Verification
- e. EX Hazardous Directory Listing for Battery and Group EX Verification
- f. Copy of EX Forklift Approvals Label
- g. Copy of EX Battery Approvals Label

The above information and documentation may be obtained/verified further by communication with John Love, director of global sales, American Specialty Equipment/Gregory EX Trucks at (973) 882-3190. ■

President's Message *(continued from cover)*

- Membership attraction and retention
 - Growth of marketing to student memberships
 - Study regarding organizational memberships
 - Improved services for existing members
- Increased membership involvement
 - Committee involvement
 - Newsletter & media draft submissions

- Advertisements and job postings
- Increased attendance at the Annual Conference (see below)
- Annual Conference
 - October 16-18, 2006, Indianapolis, IN
 - Development of multiple learning tracks
 - Exciting list of presenters
 - Advanced media release and notification of the Annual Conference

- Financial
 - Improved budget and dues policy for increasing financial reserves to support ILCA services

As you can see, the remainder of ILCA 2005-2006 promises to be an exciting year!

Patricia McIntire, MS, ARM, AU
is the loss control supervisor at State Auto Insurance Company in Indianapolis, IN. ■

Safety and Health Add Value...

To Your Business

If you could save money, improve productivity, and increase employee morale, would you? Businesses spend \$170 billion a year on costs associated with occupational injuries and illnesses - expenditures that come straight out of company profits. But workplaces that establish safety and health management systems can reduce their injury and illness costs by 20 to 40 percent. In today's business environment, these costs can be the difference between operating in the black and running in the red.

Injuries and illnesses increase workers' compensation and retraining costs, absenteeism, and faulty product. They also decrease productivity, morale, and profits. Businesses operate more efficiently when they implement effective safety and health management systems. A Fortune Five company increased productivity by 13 percent, while a small, 50-person plant decreased faulty product and saved more than \$265,000 with a strong safety and health program.

OSHA can help take the guesswork out of workplace safety and health by providing information and expertise to help businesses tailor solutions to meet their needs.

To Your Workplace

Safe workplaces provide the consistency and reliability needed to build a community and grow a business. Workplaces with active safety and health leadership have fewer injuries, are often rated better places to work, and have more satisfied, more productive employees. These employees return to work more quickly after an injury or illness and produce higher-quality products and services. Each year, OSHA works with thousands of companies to help create better workplaces, providing assessments and helping in implementing safety and health management systems.

Safe environments improve employee morale, which often leads to increased productivity and better service. Lost productivity from injuries and illnesses costs companies \$60 billion each year. OSHA has committed to reducing the rate of lost production by 2 percent per year, so that companies focused on safety and health can also enjoy a healthy bottom line.

To Your Life

When it comes to safe and healthful workplaces, OSHA helps to join employers and employees as partners for life. Since 1970, more than 75,000 lives have been saved and millions of injuries and illnesses have been prevented through effective occupational safety and health management systems.

Safe workplaces not only save life, they promote successful, vibrant lives. Workers who suffer a disabling injury can lose 40 percent of their income over five years. Families can lose even more because of the increased stress, conflict, and divorce associated with occupational injury and illness. On the other hand, safe workplaces provide an environment for healthy workers whose jobs become vehicles for making a life - not just a living.

Preventing Injuries and Illnesses Together

OSHA is committed to the design and implementation of safety and health systems that protect workers and promote successful business practices. OSHA offers a variety of tools, services, and programs to fit the needs of employers, employees, and safety and health professionals.

Safety and Health Add Value...

Businesses that partner with OSHA through the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) have 50 percent fewer lost workday injuries and illnesses than the average for their industry and incidence rates 50 percent below the national average. VPP companies have saved more than \$1 billion since 1982.

Small employers participating in the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition

Program (SHARP) have also saved their companies and their employees significant money and hardship. OSHA's Strategic Partnerships and Alliances benefit employers and employees in many industries by encouraging, assisting, and recognizing efforts to promote workplace safety and health.

This information was submitted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. ■

June Launches 2006 National Safety Month

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Safety Council's designation of National Safety Month in June. The 10th anniversary theme, "Making Our World a Safer Place," reflects the National Safety Council's mission to prevent accidental injury and death by educating and influencing people to adopt and maintain safe and healthy practices and behaviors in all aspects of their lives.

Throughout June, National Safety Month activities will address safety risks and include injury prevention tips applicable to the workplace, driving, and the home and community. A national news release on the current state of safety was launched on Thursday, June 1, 2006.

Each of the following four weeks in June have been designated a specific safety focus:

- June 5-9 - Driving
- June 12-16 - Workplace

- June 19-23 - Emergency Preparedness
- June 26-30 - Home and Community

This information is reprinted from the National Safety Council website, www.nsc.org. ■

Member Spotlight: Warren Philipps

On behalf of ILCA, we would like to unveil a new column published in *HELP* featuring members. Warren Philipps works as a loss control director for Central Insurance Companies in Van Wert, Ohio. We asked him to explain how he became involved in the association and his interest in the loss control profession.

What is your educational background?

I grew up and completed high school in Granville, Ohio and completed my BBA at Ohio University in Athens. I also had loss control training through a variety of old Alliance of American Insurers

classes on industrial hygiene, fleet safety, accident prevention, machine guarding, formalized study on the NFPA handbook and property protection, and automatic sprinklers through a two-week school at the old IRM Co., now out of business. Additionally, I have attended 1-2 and 3-day seminars over the last 36 years. The Certified Insurance Counselors (CIC) designation was also completed. I studied and passed the CSP exam. The CSP designation was retired during a career change to the marketing department.

What made you decide to work in the insurance loss control field?

During my high school and college years, I worked on a volunteer fire department and became interested in a potential career in arson investigation. Once I started with the insurance company, I discovered the loss control & safety field and became more interested in preventing accidents and injuries than investigating and putting things back together.

Member Spotlight: Warren Philipps

What is the history of Central Insurance Companies? What services do you provide consumers?

Central Mutual Insurance Co. began as a small county mutual in 1876 and has grown over the years. Originally, it was a property only company and did not begin writing casualty lines of business until the 1960s. We now operate in 18 states with four regional offices and headquarters in Van Wert, Ohio. We are a full-service property and casualty company writing all lines of business. Currently, the company rewrites approximately 55 percent commercial lines and 45 percent personal lines.

Our loss control department is involved strictly with the commercial lines business providing initial underwriting data surveys to our underwriters on new and renewal business and loss control consulting service to our policyholders in the areas of fire prevention, fleet safety, workers safety, and public safety. We currently have 14 members of the loss control department spread throughout the four regional offices.

What has been your greatest frustration and greatest joy in your job?

There are really few frustrations, just the normal day-to-day gnat bites from computer failures and automation issues. The joys of my job and of the loss control profession are knowing that you are helping businesses protect their financial assets and protect their employees. Each day on the job takes you to a different customer in a different town. The job has the freedom and flexibility of travel. No day is like the day before.

What do you think are the biggest issues facing the insurance loss control profession and the insurance industry in the next five years? Why?

One of the biggest issues facing loss control is identifying and demonstrating how loss control "adds value" to the insurance industry. It is necessary to identify what our loss control staff can do at the insurance company level that a contracted fee company consultant cannot do. If we are not able to differentiate ourselves from the fee companies, most of the work will be outsourced.

Another issue facing the loss control profession affects the entire insurance industry. That would be attracting and retaining good young talented employees and finding avenues for training and finding the right persons for promotion. The entire insurance industry is full of aging professionals who will soon be retiring, and there is a great need for talented individuals to fill supervisory and management slots in the next three to seven years. Fully using emerging technology is another issue facing the loss control profession.

In what roles have you served ILCA?

I am a long-term member attending the Annual Conferences.

Finish this sentence: I enjoy insurance loss control because...

we are able to assist our policyholders in the area of protecting their financial assets as well as their employees. By helping reduce or prevent losses, we reduce the policyholders' indirect cost and improve their profitability. This also assists our companies' ability to make a profit and grow.

If you were not employed in insurance loss control, what would you like to do?

I would like to run a furniture restoration and refinishing company. I enjoy working with antique furniture.

What are your favorite non-work activities?

Cheryl and I play a lot of tennis, run together two or three nights per week, and enjoy hiking.

Are you involved in any social, community, or volunteer activities, etc?

I am actively involved in the neighborhood where I live with membership in the tennis and social committees.

I am a professional member and past treasurer of ASSE. I am also a member of the Property Casualty Insurers (PCI) Loss Control Committee since 1999 and have served as the committee chairperson for the past two years. ■

What's Your Position?

By Barry Reutter, First Vice President



ILCA encourages members to get involved in the association's leadership. Each issue of *HELP* will highlight the responsibilities and qualifications of a specific office or committee. In this issue, we asked the first vice president, Barry Reutter, to reflect on his involvement in the association.

What does your position entail?

This year, I am serving as the first vice president of ILCA. Each of the officer positions within the Executive Committee has specific functions within the Articles of Association. One of the main functions of the first vice president is to serve as the conference chair for the Annual Conference. This involves assisting in the organization of the Annual Conference, arranging speakers, etc. Serving on the Executive Committee involves organizational and planning activities with the other committee members. We speak by phone as needed and have a teleconference monthly throughout the year. As the annual conference approaches in October, our contact and teleconference activity increases as needed.

What type of training or orientation did you receive once joining the Executive Committee?

The Executive Committee within ILCA is generally a "progression" through the officer positions. Those that were on the Executive Committee ahead of me were very helpful in providing an orientation. They provided information on the history of ILCA, the organizational direction, and the organization bylaws. Everyone was more than willing to answer any and all questions that I had. As we progress from one office to the next, those that have gone before are great sources of help.

How much time do you spend on fulfilling your ILCA duties?

Currently, we spend a few hours each week on ILCA issues. There have been several efforts over the past two years that will greatly enhance the organization. One of those improvements was developing the relationship with BLF Management, which serves as the Executive Office and performs many of the much-needed activities. During my first year on the Executive Committee, we did not have a management company and each officer was stretched very thin. BLF Management has come on board and taken over many of the management activities, publications, membership database, annual conference planning and arrangement, etc. The Executive Committee is now able to focus on issues such as the direction and improvement of the organization.

As first vice president, what is the most difficult duty to oversee? What do you find most rewarding?

One of the duties of the first vice president is to serve as the conference chair. We began arranging speakers for the 2006 Annual Conference shortly after the completion of the 2005 Annual Conference. Each one on the Executive Committee generally has the opportunity to attend various safety seminars and conferences. We are always on the lookout for good speakers on various topics that would be of interest, appropriate, and beneficial to our membership. We follow up with these speakers and arrange for them to make presentations at our future conferences. Though it takes some time, it is quite enjoyable to speak with people who are specialists in various areas of safety and health. It also gives us an excellent opportunity to spread the good word about ILCA. If any of

you have suggestions for Annual Conference speakers or topics, please contact me at breutter@central-insurance.com.

How has your volunteer work helped you in your career?

My company has been supportive of my service on the ILCA Executive Committee. Serving on the committee has provided positive recognition not only for myself, but also for our company and loss control department. It has given me the opportunity to meet many other folks within the loss control side of the insurance industry. Serving on the committee also gives you an appreciation for organizational planning, development, and decision-making.

How have you grown from the experience?

Serving on the Executive Committee has been a great experience; one that I recommend to my fellow ILCA members. The organization is growing and heading in a wonderful direction. It has been rewarding to participate in the organization over these past two years. This has been a time of change, decision, growth, direction, progress, and wonderful improvement. I am sure that I speak for all of us on the Executive Committee when I say, "We hope you enjoy your ILCA membership - find it to be beneficial, career-enhancing, and very educational. We will see you at the Annual Conference in October!"

Barry Reutter ALCM, CSP, CPCU, CPSI, is Sr. Loss Control Consultant for Central Insurance Companies in Willoughby Hills, Ohio ■