



Independent Insurance Agents of Omaha **News & Notes**

DECEMBER 2011

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President's Message



**Gary Wagner AAI,
AIC, CPSR
2011-12 IIAO President**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe December is here and 2011 is almost over. However, it also means the holidays are near, with time to enjoy with our family and friends.

Laurie VanderWal provided a great presentation on cybercrime and ID theft at our Nov. 17 meeting. We had another tremendous showing of support of our community service project with the amount of items donated for our troops abroad. Thank you to all those who donated. I also would like to thank Bruce Husted and the American Legion Post 112 for packaging and shipping our donations to the troops.

For our Dec. 15 annual Holiday Luncheon, we will welcome the director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance, Bruce Ramage. Bruce will be providing an overview of Nebraska's property and casualty insurance legislative and regulatory climate and also will provide an update on health care reform and

Continued On Page 2

IIAO Membership Luncheon

**Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011
Regency Lodge, 107th & Pacific St.**

**Buffet Line Opens at 11:15 a.m.
Program — Noon to 1 p.m.**

PROGRAM SPEAKER:

**Bruce Ramage
Director, Nebraska Department of Insurance**

TOPIC:

"Nebraska Regulatory & Legislative Update"

COST:

**IIAO Members — No charge
Guests — \$15**

IIAO has a timely and informative program planned for our Annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 15 at the Regency Lodge, 107th and Pacific. The main presentation will be a discussion focusing on key state legislative and regulatory issues of interest, and how they could impact our members and their clients.

The main speaker for the program will be Bruce Ramage, Director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance. This program will give you insight into the potential impact — on you and your customers — of insurance legislation passed in Nebraska in 2011, as well as legislative and regulatory issues which will be addressed in 2012. This will enable you to be better informed and convey better information to your clients. And, there also will be plenty of time for questions!

Bruce graduated from Dana College in 1979 and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1982.

He joined the Nebraska Department of Insurance Market Conduct Division in September of 1984. Bruce accepted the position of Chief of Market Regulation in 1999, overseeing the efforts of various divisions within the Department of Insurance, including the Consumer Affairs, Market Conduct, Producer Licensing, Property and Casualty, Life and Health, and Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program Divisions. In January 2008, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance. In November 2010, he was appointed by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman to serve as Director of Insurance.

Continued On Page 2

IIAO Dec. Membership Luncheon

Continued From Page 1

Bruce has assisted various workgroups of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). He currently is a member of the NAIC Market Analysis Working Group and chairs the NAIC Market Conduct Examination Standards Working Group. Bruce is a Past President of the Insurance Regulatory Examiners Society and he received the 2007 IRES Foundation, Paul L. DeAngelo Teaching Award and the 2007 IRES Al Greer Award.

The buffet line at our monthly luncheon meetings

opens at 11 a.m., and remains open through Noon. Our CE presentation runs from Noon to 1 p.m. You can come as early as 11:15 to network and visit with fellow members, or come just before Noon to go through the buffet line and sit down for the meeting. Either way, you will be out the door and headed back to work by 1 p.m.!

The program has been approved for one hour of P&C CE credit for both Nebraska and Iowa.

To register, please see the **CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE** insert page. We hope to see you there!

Cash Giveaway Back to \$25!

Congratulations to **Don Otis**, who was a \$50 winner at our November luncheon. We will start over with a \$25 drawing on Dec. 15 — if we don't have a winner, we will add another \$25 to the pot and try again at the next luncheon meeting. All current IIAO members are eligible to win this cash drawing, which concludes our monthly membership luncheon. But you must be present to win!

Special thanks to **Grace/Mayer Insurance** for sponsoring this month's drawing.

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For change of address information, please contact the IIA of Omaha office at (402) 397-7782, or by e-mail to Chief Administrator Joe Pittman at iiiao@cam-omaha.com.

IIAO News & Notes is published six times per year.

For advertising rate information, contact the IIAO office.



President's Message

Continued From Page 1

what Nebraska is doing with respect to a State Insurance Exchange.

Our community service project will be supporting the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. This is an excellent cause that the Independent Insurance Agents of Omaha organization has been supporting for many years. I ask that everyone take a moment to pick up an extra item or two for a less fortunate child while they are out doing their holiday shopping.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Dec. 15 meeting. Happy Holidays!



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Community Service Project: Toys for Tots

At our Dec. 15 luncheon, we will be collecting donations of new toys for the U.S. Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" program. We encourage each member who attends the December luncheon meeting to please bring a new unwrapped toy (for up to age 12) to donate to this worthy cause!

Through the gift of a shiny new toy, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation provides happiness and hope to disadvantaged children who might otherwise be overlooked this holiday season.

Toys for Tots is a more than 60-year tradition of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. Each year, Toys for Tots delivers millions of toys to needy children across the country. Unfortunately, with over 13 million children living in poverty, Toys for Tots needs

your help more than ever to achieve its goal of delivering a toy to every child in need.

Your cash donations also will help the Marines buy toys in bulk at deeply discounted prices. These cash donations allow Toys for Tots to better ensure children receive both age and gender appropriate toys. Donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please promote this within your agency and bring your donations with you on Dec. 15. For more information, contact **Eva Bennett** at 697-4617.

Wanted: Used Eyeglasses And Cell Phones!

At each meeting in 2011-12, we also will be collecting donations of old eyeglasses and cell phones. If you have any that you are looking to dispose of, please bring them with you!

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IIAO Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend these upcoming IIAO events. All monthly membership luncheons will be held at The Regency Lodge, 107th and Pacific.

Thursday, Dec. 15

Monthly Luncheon

Speaker: Bruce Ramage, Director of NE Dept. of Insurance
Topic: *NE P&C Legislative/Regulatory Overview*

Thursday, Jan. 12

Monthly Luncheon

Speaker: Cindy Gessert, Paul Davis Restoration
Topic: *Property Damage Restoration Topic*

Thursday, Feb. 2

Winter CE Seminar

Speaker: David Thompson, IIA of Florida
Topics: *To be announced (Two 3-hour programs)*

March (Date to be announced)

Insurance Ethics Seminar (One 3-hour session)

Thursday, March 29

Monthly Luncheon

Speaker: Panel discussion of local experts
Topic: *To be announced*

Thursday, April 26

Monthly Luncheon

Speaker: Michelle Bobolz, Allied Insurance
Topic: *Residential Cost Estimators*

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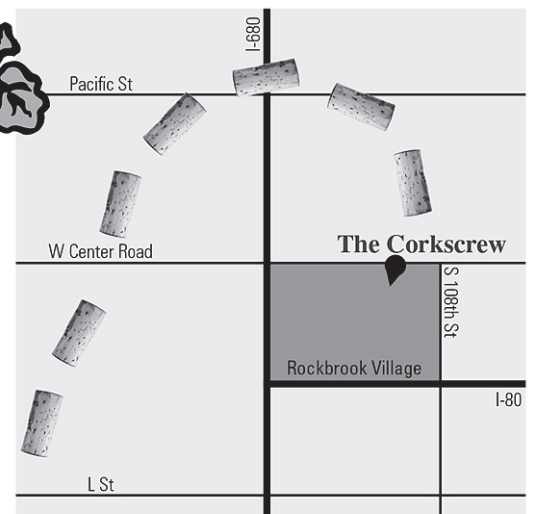
You're Invited!
HOLIDAY WINE TASTING



December 15, 2011

4:00 pm—6:30 pm

The Corkscrew
10924 Prairie Brook Road
Omaha, NE 68144



- Presented by the Young Agents of Omaha
- Contact awalker@ssgi.com or lruzicka@ssgi.com for details and to RSVP
- Please RSVP by Monday, December 12, 2011
- \$10/person which includes wine tasting & assorted cheeses!

Sponsored in part by Paul Davis Restoration & Markel Collision