

# RIMS<sup>®</sup> NOW

JANUARY 2025 • WWW.RIMS.ORG



## Celebrating 75 YEARS RIMS<sup>®</sup> the risk management society

**O**n November 21, 1950, the National Insurance Buyers Association was incorporated as a nonprofit association and the rest, as they say, is history.

Leading up to its incorporation, there was a growing consensus among commercial insurance buyers that they were not fairly represented in the insurance process. Insurers and brokers had banded together, and it was time for commercial insurance buyers to do the same.

As a united front with a true platform to share insight, experiences and market trends, those trailblazers established an invaluable network that has flourished for 75 years.

While the role of the risk professional has evolved, the professional community has grown, and the name of the association has changed, today RIMS continues to unite the risk community. Establishing itself as the world's

leading risk management association, RIMS continues to empower risk professionals to strengthen business resilience and elevate programs worldwide.

RIMS invites you to join its 75th Anniversary celebrations. This year, RIMS will deliver a range of opportunities and resources that reflect on the successes of RIMS leaders throughout history and the evolution of the profession.

However, more importantly, during this anniversary year RIMS will set its focus on the future. With contributions from hundreds of risk professionals who lead RIMS chapters, serve on committees and councils, speak at RISKWORLD and other RIMS events, and who generously share their expertise, RIMS stands ready to deliver thought-leading insight and world-class professional opportunities to support your risk management journey for the next 75 years.

## CEO PERSPECTIVE

# Welcome to RIMS NOW



**T**he mythological Roman god Janus is traditionally depicted as having two faces, as he had the power to see both the past and the future. He is associated with beginnings, transitions and the new year, and with bridging the past and the future.

Janus comes to my mind as RIMS introduces this new e-newsletter to you. RIMS NOW will share news, information and highlights about RIMS and RIMS chapters. It is designed to help tell the story of our dynamic, innovative and always-on-the-move Society.

Other RIMS publications, such as *Risk Management Magazine* and *RiskWire*, are focused on risk management news, trends and intelligence. Except for the President's Corner, they are not designed to share news about what RIMS, the RIMS-CRMP program, the RIMS Foundation for Risk Management and RIMS chapters are doing. And there is a lot going on. The objective of RIMS NOW is to better tell the story of the vitality of RIMS—what has happened and what will happen. RIMS NOW will help fill in the blanks with:

- Coverage of recent RIMS conferences and other programs
- Highlights of innovative, notable or special chapter activities and achievements
- Updates from RIMS-CRMP and RIMS, the Foundation for Risk Management
- Reports from RIMS councils, committees and other groups
- News about upcoming RIMS offerings
- Announcements about services and programs to support chapters
- Information for chapters and chapter leaders
- Celebrations of achievements, awards, anniversaries and other milestones

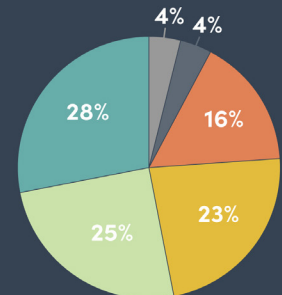
RIMS NOW will be published quarterly and e-mailed to all RIMS members. You are invited to share topics that the editors of RIMS NOW should consider for the next edition. Please send those along to: [RIMSNOW@RIMS.org](mailto:RIMSNOW@RIMS.org).

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of RIMS, we can look backward with pride and appreciate the critical role that the Society has played in nurturing the practice of risk management. We can also, like Janus, gaze ahead to grasp the scope and scale of the vibrant community that we share. Thank you for being a part of its past—and its future.

**Gary A. LaBranche, FASAE, CAE**  
Chief Executive Officer  
RIMS, the risk management society

## QUICK POLL

**28%** of RIMS Quick Poll participants identified litigation expenses as the leading cause of organizational losses in 2024.



Results based on 81 participants.  
Survey conducted on December 10, 2024.



# Kristen Peed Named 2025 President of RIMS Society Introduces 2025 Officers & Board of Directors

RIMS announced that Kristen Peed will serve as the Society's 2025 president. Kristen is Head of Corporate Risk at Sequoia, a leading human resources technology platform and advisory services company where she is responsible for the placement of its corporate insurance programs, claims management, and the implementation of risk mitigation strategies. Prior to Sequoia, Kristen was the Director of Corporate Risk at CBIZ, Inc. and part of the risk management teams at Swagelok and STERIS Corporation.



"It is a brand-new day in the world of risk management," Kristen said. "Each day risk professionals awake to a whirlwind of new and evolving risks. While the world flinches at that uncertainty, risk professionals must continue to fearlessly march toward it, focus on elevating their skills and programs, and position themselves to drive innovation and boost business resilience."

"As RIMS 2025 President—and the fortunate risk leader to serve in this role during RIMS 75th

Active in RIMS throughout her career, she previously served as President of the RIMS Northeast Ohio Chapter and later joined the RIMS global Board of Directors in 2018.

anniversary year—my priority is to help ensure that RIMS continues to deliver thought-leading insight and powerful networking opportunities that allow this professional community to thrive for years to come."

## RIMS 2025 Board of Directors



**President: Kristen Peed**  
Head of Corporate Risk,  
Sequoia



**Vice President: Manuel Padilla**  
Vice President,  
Risk Management & Insurance,  
MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated



**Treasurer: Christy Kaufman**  
Vice President,  
P&C Risk and Compliance,  
USAA



**Secretary: Penni Chambers**  
Vice President,  
Risk Management,  
Hillwood, a Perot Company



**Ann Barry**  
Senior Director,  
Risk Management,  
Palo Alto Networks



**Carnell Jones**  
Risk Manager,  
Trinitas Ventures LLC



**John Kline**  
Senior Director, Enterprise  
Insurance Risk Management,  
TransUnion



**Will Lehman**  
Global Director of  
Risk Management,  
Cook Group Incorporated



**Ondrea Matthews**  
Senior Director,  
Risk Management and Benefits,  
CoorsTek, LLC



**Tamieka Weeks**  
Global Risk Management  
& Insurance,  
Southwire Company



**Christie Weinstein**  
Director, Risk Management,  
Honeywell International Inc



**Robert Zhang**  
Regional Risk & Compliance  
Manager, Asia Pacific,  
IKEA Supply



**Past President: David Arick**  
Managing Director,  
Global Risk Management,  
Sedgwick



**Non-Voting Director:  
Gary A. LaBranche**  
RIMS Chief Executive Officer

## AWARDS & HONORS

### RISKWORLD 2024 Wins TSNN Award for DEI Innovation

RISKWORLD 2024 was recently honored with the Trade Show News Network (TSNN) Award for excellence and innovation in diversity, equity and inclusion. The award recognizes top trade shows for their creativity, resilience and leadership. RISKWORLD 2024 featured exceptional DEI initiatives, including keynote speaker Marlee Matlin, who addressed inclusion and accessibility; real-time translation technology to enhance accessibility for attendees; and partnerships with DEI-focused organizations such as NAAIA, AAIN, APIW, LAAIA and the Rainbow Risk Alliance to help foster a globally inclusive environment.



### Organizations Honored with 2024 ERM Global Award of Distinction

In November, at the 2024 ERM Conference in Boston, RIMS presented three organizations with the 2024 ERM Global Award of Distinction. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, Paychex and Tennessee Valley Authority were recognized for developing exceptional enterprise risk management programs that aligned with business strategy, improved risk identification efforts, empowered organizational decision-makers, and embedded robust risk cultures across the enterprises.



The 2024 ERM Conference saw record-breaking attendance and featured a stellar lineup of risk thought leaders who shared their experiences applying ERM practices to align risk management with strategy.

### Valerie Fox Receives 2024 Donald M. Stuart Award

RIMS Ontario Chapter (ORIMS) presented the Donald M. Stuart Award to Valerie Fox, CRM, RIMS-CRMP, former director of risk management & health and safety for NPL Canada. The Donald M. Stuart award is Canada's highest honor within the risk management field and celebrates Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

Throughout her 42-year career, Valerie held prominent leadership roles in risk management for a range of multinational corporations including NPL Canada, Loblaw Companies Limited, Wendy's Restaurants of Canada, Walmart International Ltd., and others. In those roles, she successfully integrated highly effective programs that included critical risk strategies around claims administration, workers compensation, disaster and business continuity planning, and alternative risk financing solutions.



## ADVOCACY

# RIMS Public Policy Focus in 2025

**R**IMS Public Policy Committee has identified several legislative issues that it will focus on in 2025. These include an association tax reform proposal that, if enacted, would levy a 21% tax on nonprofits' net earnings. Both Republicans and Democrats have shown an interest in the potential tax revenue this proposal would generate, and it is expected to move quickly through Congress. RIMS is serving on the Steering Committee of an association coalition led by ASAE that hopes to stop this new tax on associations and other nonprofit organizations from moving forward.

Other legislative issues of interest to the Committee include reforming the National Flood Insurance Program, mandating disclosures around third-party litigation funding of civil lawsuits, and providing the risk management perspective on various cybersecurity and data privacy initiatives.

This year's Legislative Summit, which is scheduled for March 19 and 20 in Washington, D.C., will give RIMS members an opportunity to meet with their members of Congress to discuss these and other issues. [Registration for the Summit is now open.](#)



### 75TH SPOTLIGHT

# 2001

RIMS Japan chapter is established as the first chapter outside of North America.

## RIMS Staff Promotions

Throughout the course of 2024 and into 2025, RIMS has promoted staff to ensure the Society continues to deliver exceptional resources, support and experiences for the global risk community. "As today's volatile risk landscape forces global risk leaders to quickly shift gears, RIMS too must adapt and strengthen staff capabilities to support the evolving needs of members, certification holders and customers," said RIMS CEO Gary LaBranche.

- **Bereket Haile** was promoted to **Chief Financial Officer** in January 2025, replacing Kathy Gledhill, who retired at the end of 2024.
- **Cherise Papadopolo** was promoted to **Vice President, DEI, People & Culture** in July 2024.
- **Kris Wolcott** was promoted to **Vice President, Business Development** in January 2025.
- **Morgan O'Rourke** was promoted to **Senior Director, Content & Publications** in January 2025.
- **Joshua Salter** was promoted to **Senior Director, Communications** in January 2025.
- **Eric Bernard** was promoted to **Director, Member & Chapter Engagement** in October 2024.
- **Marshane Mulligan** was promoted to **Manager, Certification Programs** in July 2024.
- **Liz Sakellarides** was tapped to serve as **Director, Marketing & Digital Strategy** in May 2024. Liz remains an employee of strategic marketing firm mdg through the company's embedded services program.



## NEWS

# First RIMS Texas Regional Conference Set for Summer 2025

AUGUST 4-6 | SAN ANTONIO  
**RIMS TEXAS**  
REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

**F**rom August 4 to 6, the Texas risk management community will come together for the inaugural RIMS Texas Regional Conference in San Antonio.

In collaboration with RIMS' four Texas-based chapters—RIMS Central Texas (Austin), RIMS Dallas Fort Worth, RIMS Houston, and RIMS South Texas (San Antonio)—the Society will deliver a two-day event filled with invaluable networking opportunities for local risk professionals, as well as a powerful program that will explore both the region's and the world's evolving risks.

Registration for RIMS Texas Regional Conference 2025 will open in the second quarter. For more information, visit [www.RIMS.org/events/texas-regional](http://www.RIMS.org/events/texas-regional).



**Texas' risk community teems with exceptional leaders whose knowledge and ingenuity have fueled innovation and strengthened business resilience for decades," said RIMS CEO Gary LaBranche. "RIMS is thrilled to work with the volunteer risk professionals who lead the Texas chapters to deliver an impactful experience that further unites the community, elevates skills and advances the profession."**

## Understanding Interconnected Risks

**Ignoring risks interactions and interconnectedness** may be a company's greatest risk, according to a recent RIMS Executive Report titled *Understanding Interconnected Risks*.

Authored by RIMS Strategic and Enterprise Risk Management Council members Michael Zuraw and Tom Easthope, the report explores the importance of developing a holistic view of the interconnected risks facing the organization. The report provides risk professionals with strategies to analyze and assess these risks, including leveraging surveys, modeling,



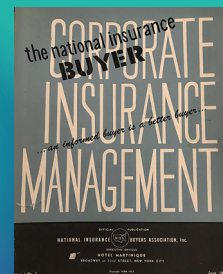
as well as tips to visually present risk relationships to senior leadership to drive a better understanding of the organization's complex risk environment.

To download the report, visit RIMS Risk Knowledge library at [www.RIMS.org/RiskKnowledge](http://www.RIMS.org/RiskKnowledge).

### 75TH SPOTLIGHT

# 1952

First issue of *The National Insurance Buyer* published. The magazine would be renamed *Risk Management Magazine* in 1969.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Calendar Key:

■ = VIRTUAL WORKSHOP 
 ■ = CONFERENCE 
 ■ = WEBINAR

<p><b>January 29-30</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Fundamentals of Risk Management</a></p>	<p><b>February 4-6</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS-CRMP-FED Exam Prep</a></p>	<p><b>February 5-6</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Facilitating Risk-Based Decision Making</a></p>
<p><b>February 6</b>  <b>WEBINAR</b> :::  <a href="#">4 Themes Shaping the Future of GRC in 2025</a>                  Sponsored by Resolver</p>	<p><b>February 11-12</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Claims Management</a></p>	<p><b>February 19-20</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Fundamentals of Insurance</a></p>
<p><b>February 20</b>  <b>WEBINAR</b> :::  <a href="#">Ready for the Unexpected? Strategies for Property Valuation, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity in 2025</a>                  Sponsored by HUB International</p>	<p><b>February 26-27</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Applying and Integrating ERM</a></p>	<p><b>March 5</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Leveraging Data and Analytics for Continuous Risk Management (Part I)</a></p>
<p><b>March 12</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Managing Data for ERM (Part II)</a></p>	<p><b>March 19</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Optimizing Risk Management with Artificial Intelligence (Part III)</a></p>	<p><b>March 19-20</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep</a></p>
<p><b>March 19-20</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS Legislative Summit 2025</a>                  Washington, DC</p>	<p><b>March 26</b>  <b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOP</b> :::  <a href="#">Generative AI for Risk Management</a></p>	<p><b>May 4-7</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">RISKWORLD 2025</a>                  Chicago, IL</p>
<p><b>July 29-August 2</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">2025 Florida RIMS Educational Conference</a>                  Naples, FL</p>	<p><b>August 4-6</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS Texas Regional Conference 2025</a>                  San Antonio, TX</p>	<p><b>September 14-17</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS Canada Conference 2025</a>                  Calgary, AB</p>
<p><b>October 1-3</b>  <b>CONFERENCE</b> :::  <a href="#">RIMS Western Regional Conference</a>                  Santa Clara, CA</p>		

For more information, visit [www.RIMS.org](http://www.RIMS.org).

**75TH SPOTLIGHT**

# 1975

The American Society of Insurance Managers changes its name to RIMS.

# SNAPSHOTS

**RIMS ERM**  
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2024 | BOSTON



**RIMS** Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council  
the risk management society



**RIMS CANADA**  
CONFERENCE  
VANCOUVER | OCTOBER 6-9, 2024





75TH SPOTLIGHT

1963

The first national annual conference is held in New Orleans.

ENGAGE TODAY.  
EMBRACE TOMORROW.



CHICAGO 2025  
**RISKWORLD**  
MAY 4-7  
POWERED BY 75 RIMS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

SUPER SAVINGS RATE ENDS FEBRUARY 28



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**RIMSCAST**  
The Top Risk Management Podcast



Kicking Off 2025 with RIMS CEO Gary LaBranche

RIMS CEO **Gary LaBranche** discusses RIMS' 75th Anniversary events, possible insurance impacts of proposed trade tariffs, nuclear verdicts and third-party litigation, and more.

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