

The Insurance Library Association of Boston Saval Insurance Education Center

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Newsletter

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State Representative Ronald Mariano (center) received the 2008 Insurance Library Insurance Professional of the Year Award at the Boston Harbor Hotel on October 10, 2008. Joining him in the picture are all past recipients of this award including, from left to right, John B. Conners, David J. Lane, John K. Golembeski, [Mr. Mariano], William F. Hofmann, III, Ralph "Buddy" Iannaco, and Daniel J. Johnston.

Made possible by the establishment of the Richard B. Simches Fund in 2001, the Insurance Professional of the Year Award is presented each year to a person who demonstrates leadership and exemplifies those qualities that engender understanding of and respect for the insurance industry.

The 2009 award winner has not yet been designated. Please feel free to send us suggestions of people well-suited to join this illustrious group (just email to jlucey@insurancelibrary.org), and please mark your calendar for Friday, October 16, 2009 when we will once again gather at the Boston Harbor Hotel to recognize excellence in our industry.

The Annual Fund

Despite the uncertainty in the financial markets we are all experiencing, The Insurance Library Association of Boston has been most pleased about and gratified by the response to date to our appeal for donations to the 2008-2009 Annual Fund: in fact, donations received so far this fiscal year (our fiscal year is July 1-June 30) exceed those as of the same date last year.

Donors since July 1, 2008:

Platinum Donor (\$5000 and over)

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Friends of the Library (any amount gratefully received!)

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Soucy Insurance Agency
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TLJ Partners, Inc.
Barbara Thornton
Bernard A. Torri, Jr.

If you are a member of the Insurance Library Association of Boston and are not listed above, please expect to receive an Annual Fund brochure in the mail very soon.

Award Winners

Each year at the Association's Annual Meeting, the winner of the **Barbara Thornton Award** is announced and the presentation made.

The Trustees of The Insurance Library Association of Boston established the Barbara W. Thornton Award in 1992 in recognition and honor of Mrs. Thornton's outstanding contribution as an Association Trustee. Her leadership was crucial in reestablishing the Insurance Library Association as an insurance and risk management education center.

Each year the winner of the award is selected from among candidates who have taken each of the three ARM classes through the library—at least one of which was tested in the current year—passed all three national examinations, and been awarded the ARM designation.

The 2008 winner of the Thornton Award was Thomas J. Bryant, ARM of International Energy Insurance Brokers, located in Boston, Massachusetts.



Thomas J. Bryant (left) was presented with the 2008 Barbara Thornton Award by instructor Marc W. Cleary (right) at the Annual Meeting of the Insurance Library Association.

The Frank W. Humphrey Golden Anniversary Award was established by Maurice H. Saval in honor of Frank W. Humphrey whom he considered to be his mentor. Mr. Humphrey was at the agency Boit Dalton & Church, later Frank B. Hall & Company and now Aon Risk Services of Massachusetts. The prize was first awarded to commemorate Mr. Humphrey's 50th year in the insurance business and is intended as a special tribute to his contribution to our industry by his guidance and assistance to young people entering the business.

The winner each year is chosen from among those students who have successfully completed the course in Property and Liability Insurance Principles taught by Joe Sciacca. Joe was the initial winner of this award himself many years ago. This year the competition was among 51 original course enrollees. The winner scored a grade of "Excellent" on the national examination administered for this course. The winner this year is Meriel Pavlik, formerly of Risk Strategies Company here in Boston, but now working at Zachry Construction Corporation in San Antonio, TX and hence was not available to accept her award in person at the Annual Meeting.

Please watch for the notice that goes out about the 2009 Annual Meeting in November, and plan to join us in honoring very worthy award recipients. Attending the Annual Meetings is also an excellent way to learn more about the Association's operations and governance, and to participate in decision-making.

Adopt-A-Book

The Adopt-A-Book program began in 2007 and is yet another way in which Insurance Library supporters can help us realize the Association's fundamental mission. As it says on our website:

As we continue to add new publications to the collection, we cannot abandon our commitment to preserving the extensive and unique assortment of items with historical interest to our industry. We are beginning to focus more closely on preservation of our historical publications and documents. The old books, artifacts and insurance ephemera we hold in our collection require that attention be paid to their physical condition so that they can be maintained for years to come. Your donation could help insure their very survival.

We are grateful to several benefactors for enabling the restoration of a number of volumes. Still, many worthy volumes remain unclaimed. For example, our set of books from the National Board of Fire Underwriters (circa 1905) can use some help. These volumes were recently consulted by a PhD scholar who was preparing a paper on fire insurance rate-setting in the 19th century for presentation at an international forum of city planners and historians. To find out more about this book and to see others you can go here:

http://www.insurancelibrary.org/adopt_a_book/Adopt_a_Book.htm



Sample map from the NBFU books



Librarian Sarah Hart (above) devised the Adopt-A-Book program; Meagan Stefanow organizes and oversees the repair of materials

Service to the Public

While we depend upon members of the Insurance Library Association for the vast majority of our support, financial and otherwise, an important part of our mission is to help members of the general public. Often this help comes in the form of assisting students and others to understand some concept related to our industry.

More frequently, though, we find ourselves helping consumers unfamiliar with the insurance industry. We field many calls from people asking for the financial strength ratings of insurance companies they are considering. When we give them these ratings, we also tell them about complaint data and how they can access it. We continue to trace insurers who have merged or changed their names which can be crucial to collection under old policies. With recent changes to Massachusetts health insurance and the advent of managed competition in the auto market we've also had an increase in requests for consumer guides/copies of the related laws. We consider helping consumers and students to be an important part of our work here at the library.