



PIA Oregon/Idaho Convention sets records

A record number of agents and company representatives attended the 40th Annual PIA Oregon/Idaho Convention and Trade Show in Sunriver, Oregon, May 20-24.

In his farewell speech, outgoing president John Desmarteau focused on this year's theme: ***Who Brought You to the Dance***. He introduced former PIA Oregon/Idaho presidents Ronn Passmore, Ron Manza and Ed Ellingsen and this year's AAMGA award winner Dawn Irwin to several of the first time attendees of the convention and new members of the PIA. Desmarteau challenged them to strive to reach the heights that Passmore, Manza, Ellingsen and Irwin have achieved for PIA.



John Desmarteau



Pete Lackner

Pete Lackner—owner, Rose City Associates was elected president and will serve until May of 2008. In his inaugural speech, Lackner, through a series of clever slides and a couple of movie clips, showed where he came from and how he arrived at his personal philosophy. His theme: do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

The association membership also elected a new board of directors and presented a number of awards.



The PIA Oregon/Idaho Board of Directors:

President: Pete Lackner, owner, Rose City Associates, Portland

President Elect: Gary Steffen, vice president, Safe and Sound Insurance & Amigos Aseguranzas, Oregon City & Portland

Vice President: Chris Huwalt, branch manager, Western States Insurance, McMinnville

Treasurer: Glenda Lile, former owner Prineville Insurance Agency, Prineville

Secretary: Peter Ball, owner, Corvallis Insurance Services, Corvallis

National Director: Terry Adams, former president PIA National, owner Terry Adams & Associates, Portland

Past President: John Desmarteau, member/owner Beaver State Insurance Agency, Salem

Several individuals were recognized for their contributions to the PIA Oregon/Idaho.



PIA Oregon/Idaho Agent of the Year

Darlene Grant, owner World of Insurance in Medford, Oregon is the PIA Oregon/Idaho Agent of the Year. She is a former president of the association.

The PIA Oregon/Idaho Agent of the Year Award recognizes a special individual whose accomplishments exemplify Integrity, dedication to customers and toward bettering our industry and commitment to the members and goals of the PIA.

Company Person of the Year

Bill Frith of Safeco Insurance was named the 2007 PIA Oregon/Idaho Company Person of the Year.

PIA and its members benefit from the contributions of time, money and expertise that come from our insurance company partners. In recognition of those contributions, the PIA honors one individual whose active involvement with PIA helps drive their company to support our efforts with our members.



Others given awards at the annual Oregon/Idaho convention:



CSR of the Year

Peggy MacMillan of JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance, Portland, Oregon is the PIA Oregon/Idaho CSR of the Year.

Each year this award goes to a highly motivated insurance professional who strives to perform at a level superior.

AAMGA Award

Dawn Irwin of Standard Financing was given the PIA Oregon/Idaho American Association of Managing General Agencies (AAMGA) Award.



The AAMGA allows the PIA to recognize an individual who has made a special contribution to the association, and who upholds the best traditions of character and integrity in our industry.



Blinders Award

Susan Sironen of Big Sky Underwriters.

The Annual Blinders Award is given to an underwriter or company person who does the opposite of what this award suggests—they take off the blinders and broaden their vision. The broadening of the vision makes it easier for the rest of us to serve our clients.

Chairperson of the Year

The PIA Oregon/Idaho has several committees that assist in the operation of the association. The Chairperson of the Year award was given to Oregon/Idaho CISR Committee Chairperson Jessie Dziggel of Sublimity Insurance.



Presidential Citation

Outgoing president John Desmarteau recognized Gary Wolcott Director of Communications for PIA Oregon/Idaho for his contribution to the PIA.

The board terms of former Oregon/Idaho presidents Rich Kingsley, owner of Cammack-Kingsley Insurance in Stayton and Randy Carlton, owner of Cascade Insurance in Bend expired this year. Both men were honored by the association for their exemplary service to the PIA.

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**SAVE THE DATE: The 2008 PIA Oregon/Idaho
Convention and Trade Show is May 18-21 at the
Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, Oregon**