

Sidelights

on the business and the people in it

Best in their Field

The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) last week honored two agent leaders and one of its state associations for their legislative strides made in 2007. The awards were bestowed during the IIABA's National Legislative Conference and Convention:

Tom Minkler of Clark-Mortenson Agency in Keene, N.H., was presented the Sidney O. Smith Award for his tireless work in promoting the legislative goals of the Big "I", including in his role as government affairs chairman.

Currently serving as chairman of the government affairs committee, Minkler represents agents on the Hill. He has testified numerous times before both House and Senate committees on national issues important to independent agents and brokers, including insurance regulatory reform. He has been a member of the Agents Advocacy Fund Committee since 2005, and he participated in the NAIC Advisory Committee on Producer Licensing in 2007. An avid supporter and major donor of InsurPac, he served as the InsurPac Chairman for the state of New Hampshire.

Also honored were the Florida Association of Insurance Agents, which received the Maurice Herndon Award, and Vinny Alba, a New York agent who received the Barney Burns award for his work as New York's InsurPac chairman.

The Florida agents were noted for improving their insurance marketplace, despite catastrophic exposure and a "difficult legislative environment." ■

New at NBIC

William J. Riker has been elected to the Narragansett Bay Insurance Company Board of Directors, expanding its number of directors to seven.

Riker is the former president and chief underwriting officer of RenaissanceRe Holdings.

He joined RenaissanceRe in its founding year of 1993, with overall responsibility for enterprise-wide modeling and underwriting.

Prior to joining RenaissanceRe, Riker was vice president of Applied Insurance Research (AIR), where he was responsible for marketing and educating clients about AIR's CATMAP product.

He also was senior vice president in charge of treaty and facultative operations for the New York based reinsurer, American Royal Re.

Riker holds a B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University. He is a board member of the International Hurricane Research Center and Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH). In addition, he serves on the Board of Visitors of Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering. ■

Getting to Golf

The New England 1752 Club will host its annual golf outing at the Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge, Mass. on June 3 at 9 a.m., with lunch to be served at 2:30 p.m.

Golf and green fees are \$59 and dinner is \$20. Reservations are due by May 21.

For more information, visit www.ne1752club.org. ■

Giving Grants

Firefighters having access to critical emergency operation data prior to arriving at the accident scene can do their jobs more effectively, which can be the difference between life and death.

Thanks to a \$7,100 grant from **Fireman's Fund** Insurance Company and Marketing Associates Insurance Agency, a subsidiary of Telamon Insurance & Financial Network, the Westwood, Mass., fire department was able to purchase two computers to relay this crucial information.

The computers, with appropriate software, relay essential data such as fire plans, street and hydrant locations, occupancy information and incident management reports that include information about hazardous materials.

The grant was made possible through the Fireman's Fund Heritage program – Fireman's Fund's social mission to support firefighters for safer communities.

Through the program, agents across the country have the opportunity to direct grants to fire departments for needed equipment, training and community education.

"On behalf of the Westwood firefighters and the residents of this community, I would like to thank Marketing Associates Insurance Agency and Fireman's Fund for helping to make our community safer," said William Scoble, fire chief at the Westwood Fire Department.

The computers will be installed in the department's two front line engines, one housed at Islington Station and the other at the department headquarters on High Street.

The computers will be placed in the front of the engine, so firefighters can access vital information when answering a call for help.

To date, the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program has donated more than \$16.4 million to fire departments throughout the country.

"These computers aren't luxury items," said Michael Susco, chairman and chief executive officer of Marketing Associates Insurance Agency. "They are essential tools that will make the Westwood community safer." ■

