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STRIVING TO BE YOUR BEST RESOURCE FOR INDUSTRY INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND NETWORKING

Website:

GreaterDetroit.cpcusociety.org

LinkedIn: Like Us!

President- Renee VanderHagen, Crum & Forster
Vice Pres.- Ronald Peppler, Peppler Insurance Agency
Treas.- Florence Nagy, retired, but not from CPCU!
Secretary- Aaron Lee, Ally
VP Education- Paul Anderson
VP Programs – Heidi Muglia, Ally
New Designee Chair- Johnathon Ott, Hanover
Social Media - Brandon Van Wormer, Crum & Forster
Joe Wicks- Immediate Past Pres, Accident Fund

HOW TO REACH CHAPTER OFFICERS-

Renee- renee.vanderhagen@cfins.com

Ron- rpeppler@pepplerinsurance.com

Florence – nagyf007@gmail.com

Aaron- aaron.lee@ally.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT-

Renee VanderHagen

ALL INDUSTRY DAY NOVEMBER 11TH

10 AM – 11:30 AM

The year in review

New Officer/Board Elections

New Designee Confirmation-

We have 16 New Designees this year- Woo Hoo!

Diversity & Inclusion Panel Discussion
with LeRoy Bostic, Tom Humphreys, &
John Konechne

**LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS SOON ABOUT
REGISTRATION**

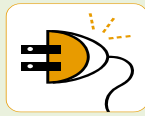
GREATER DETROIT CPCU CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP-

We partnered with Olivet College for the next 3 years to offer \$2,500 in scholarships each year to students in Olivet's Insurance and Risk Management Program.



LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY? JOIN OUR CHAPTER'S LEADERS → **TAKING NOMINATIONS FOR VP PROGRAMS, WEBMASTER, MEMBERSHIP, AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR.**

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Interact is an All Members Forum for discussions and idea-sharing with CPCUs from all over the country. **Go to Interact.cpcusociety.org to register.**

CPCUSOCIETY.ORG offers **MINDTOOLS** link under the Education Tab, giving you access to more than 2,000 leadership, management and career development resources, with new things added each week.

IRMI – Free Podcasts at IRMI.com
Have you checked out the CPCU Roadshows? Lots of great info, like: [How to join a CPCU Interest Group](#)



HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT

THERE ARE MEMBERS OUT THERE WITH 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO BRAG ABOUT, SO HERE'S YOUR CHANCE AND PLACE!

SEND AN EMAIL TO

RENEE.VANDERHAGEN@CFINS.COM

ABOUT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020, OR THOSE OF ANOTHER MEMBER, THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH US, AND WE CAN POST THEM IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

**IN2RISK :OCTOBER 7-9, 2020
VIRTUALLY**

Taking place October 7-9, our annual meeting is all-new and smarter than ever. Being virtual this year means an incredible opportunity to reach an even broader audience. Registration is now open! [cpcu.informz.net]

There are a variety of learning tracks to follow, happy hours and networking. CPCU continuing education credits given.

If you are involved in an insurance organization, and want to partner with our Chapter on future events, please contact:
Heidi Muglia
(Heidi.muglia@ally.com) or
Renee VanderHagen
(renee.vanderhagen@cfins.com)

INSURANCE MEET UP: Introducing DON BALMES CPCU, CIC – the “Insurance Doctor”

Don credits his brother-in-law for introducing him to insurance, and credits Nate Weist promoting him to “doctor of insurance.” Don’s career began as a rating clerk supporting underwriters at Continental Insurance Company (now CNA) in 1978, and he just retired from Willis Towers Watson in August 2020. His passion and desire to handle bigger accounts landed him at Marsh in 1999, developing risk management and insurance solutions for large corporate clients around the world. He continued in that arena for Willis Towers Watson. Along the way, he used his network of seasoned brokers and other resources to learn how insurance worked outside of the US so that he could successfully meet the needs of global clients.

His “words of wisdom” for others in the industry: Have a passion for what you do, engage in continuous learning opportunities, build relationships, and recognize the importance of mentors (being one and seeking one). He learned early on the importance of being a trusted advocate and confident for clients, and of learning their business so that creative solutions could be imagined and realized. Don recalls that “My greatest reward was becoming an industry mentor and client advocate without even realizing it during my career.”

Ongoing insurance education is also a key to success in the industry. Employers need to invest in employees, and employees who invest their time and energy should be rewarded for their efforts. Even without company incentives, Don advocates for challenging yourself to learn and improve, and rewards in new experiences and confidence will follow. The CPCU designation is good for helping someone figure out their place in the insurance world, and helping to see the options going forward.

Thank you, Don, for your years with the Greater Detroit CPCU Chapter, serving as VP for 5 terms, and mentoring others along the way.

Let’s think about ...THE VALUE OF A CPCU DESIGNATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE CPCU SOCIETY:

Here are the thoughts of another CPCU in West Des Moines, Iowa, as expressed on the INteract All Members Community Forum on September 29th. Thanks to Brett Clausen, CPCU, FBL Financial Group, Inc:

“We can belong to several organizations and put it on the resume. No one cares. What matters is the difference that you make. If you belong, do nothing, and don't actively engage in the opportunity given, it is a total waste of your time and talents – as well as the organizations. Defining opportunity and value as a CPCU Society member:

- Leadership.** The CPCU Society gave me the opportunity to build my leadership skills with really no chance of being fired. It allowed me to fail, learn from it and get better. And by the way, failing is one of the best lessons. The leadership opportunities are endless and free for the taking!

- Mentorship.** This is one of the greatest opportunities – to have access to experts and colleagues in our industry. We all need mentors to grow and we as leaders, should be a mentor. Our industry needs more talent and we need to be part of the solution.

- Global Network.** There is absolutely no way I could have built my network, which goes well beyond any border, without the CPCU Society. I continue today to build that network and technology is making it much easier and more accessible than ever before. The Friday CPCU Happy Hours are virtual allowing me to connect with CPCUs in multiple countries.

- Lifelong Learning.** This speaks for itself. Achieving the CPCU designation is just the beginning – the entry pass to lifelong learning and success. It truly was the difference maker in my career. Our industry continues to evolve. The CPCU Society is on the cutting edge of this and allows us to collaborate to find viable solutions to our greatest challenges.

These are just a few of the many reasons that I continue to belong and pay my dues to the CPCU Society.

Thank you to all the CPCU leaders, mentors and volunteers that continue to make this the best experience and investment for me personally and professionally. “



GREATER DETROIT/MID-MICHIGAN CPCU & WESTRAN GOLF OUTINGS:

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED OR PARTICIPATED

40 golfers attended a CPCU golf outing July 30th at Wheatfield Valley Golf Club in Williamston. Attendees included employees from Accident Fund Group, Auto-Owners, Farm Bureau, Hanover, Michigan Millers, local agents and professors from Olivet College. The winning team consisted of Andy Corbin, Jay Lannin, Chris Massey, and Preston Meeder – all from Auto Owners. They shot an outstanding score of 52, or 18 under par. Congratulations to the winning team!

Donations were kindly provided by Accident Fund, Ally Financial, Auto-Owners, Farm Bureau, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC. A special Thank you to Christy Ishraidi (AF Group), Matt Lennox (Auto-Owners), Dan Briggs (Farm Bureau) and Renee VanderHagen (Crum and Forster) for their help organizing the event. We hope to see everyone next summer!

AND

For the second year in a row, the Greater Detroit Chapter sponsored a foursome at Westran Scholarship Foundation Golf Outing on August 7th. The foursome from the Greater Detroit Chapter was Aaron Lee, CPCU – Ally Financial; Paul Anderson, CPCU; Adam McIntosh – Latitude Subrogation Services and Paul Webb – Latitude Subrogation Services. The event generated approximately \$46,500 compared to \$52,000 in 2019. The 2021 Westran Outing will be on August 6th at Hawk Hollow in Bath Twp., MI.

Congratulations 2020 New Designees



Peter Bottenhorn – State Farm
Matthew Burgess – Amica Mutual
Amy Chaban – Marsh Inc.
Brett Faustman – Arrowhead General

We met a few of the new designees at dinner this month: Scott Moran, John Growney, Brian Granger, and Gavin Mills. Brian has decided to throw his name into the hat for one of the open Board positions for 2021.

Brian Granger – Auto Club Group
Lindsay Greenfelder – Ally Financial
John Growney – Chubb Limited US
Andrew Harig – Ally Financial
Michael Kowalski – Marsh Inc.
Scott Moran – Ally Financial
Daniel Murphy – Ally Financial
Thomas Nowicki – Ally Financial
Malolan Raghavan – HCL America
Christal Smith – Marsh Inc.
Levi Wagner – Hantz Agency
Matthew Walton – Lafarge Holcim

Check out our Chapter's website for photos!

