

Two Elections Will Be Held At The Board Of Directors' Meeting In Monterey

Two elections will take place during the JPIA's May 6, 2019, Board of Directors' meeting in Monterey. The first election will be to fill four positions on the Executive Committee, each for its complete term of four year. There are two incumbents running (E.G. "Jerry" Gladbach of Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency and J. Bruce Rupp of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District) and two positions are currently vacant.

The second election will fill two positions on the California Water Insurance Fund Board (an ACWA JPIA Captive Insurance Company). This newly formed company will have a seven-member Board, made up of four current Executive Committee members, a resident of Utah (this is a Utah State requirement) and two members who are elected from the JPIA's Board of Directors at large. For the initial term, these positions will be filled for three years each. Thereafter, they will be two-year terms.

Any candidate, who is elected to an Executive Committee position during the first election, will become ineligible to run in the second election for the California Water Insurance Fund Board.



Only the JPIA Directors or their Alternates present at the meeting may obtain the ballots for voting. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Ballots will be counted by the election inspectors and the results announced at the Board meeting. The election for the California Water Insurance Fund Board will occur after the results of the first election are announced.

Written by: Sylvia Robinson, Publications & Web Editor

Inside This Issue ...

An Independent Claims Audit Finds The JPIA Excellent	3	JPIA 2019 Spring Conference Schedule	5
Form 700s Due	3	Members Asked To Share Comments On JPIA's 40 th Anniversary	5
JPIA Distributes \$4.5 Million To Its Members	3	W.D. "Bill" Knutson Withdraws From the Executive Committee	6
Affordable Care Act Update	4	Faces Of Learning And Change	7
2019 Wellness Grants	4	Annual Property Schedule Review	8

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An Independent Claims Audit Finds The JPIA Excellent

During the month of November 2018, JPIA underwent its biennial Workers' Compensation, Property, and Liability claims audit.

The audit was conducted by Bickmore, a risk management consulting and actuarial services company, and the auditor examined the JPIA's self-insured, self-administered claims administration practices. The JPIA has separate claims departments for the various lines of coverage (i.e., Workers' Compensation, Property, and Casualty). Over 50 workers' compensation files were audited, as well as 32 files for general liability, property, and employment liability cases.

The audit deliverables included reviewing the JPIA's written claims administration procedures and interviewing claims management staff regarding the current claims administration procedures and practices, including work flows. The audit also included a look back at claims data for the three most recent years, as well as reviewing the reports that JPIA submits to the California Office of Self Insurance Plans.

The audit findings concluded with the statement that "both units are staffed with experienced professionals and provide good service to the membership as demonstrated in the performance results." The respective units received "superior" scores.

The members often say that JPIA is excellent but once again, it is verified by an independent third party!

Written by: Karen Thesing, Director of Insurance Services



Form 700s Due April 2, 2019

JPIA Directors who haven't submitted a Form 700 should contact Bobbette Wells at bwells@acwajpia.com or (800) 231-5742, ext. 3161.

JPIA Distributes \$4.5 Million To Its Members

The JPIA is once again distributing refunds to its members. In March and April of this year, \$4.5 million in checks was distributed to approximately 193 members. Members of the Executive Committee and management staff personally delivered many checks directly to the members. The Risk Management staff delivered some of the checks during their regular district visits as well. Since the establishment of the Rate Stabilization Fund, 20 years ago, the JPIA has delivered over \$50 million in refund checks.

Why is this? Simply put, members' claims losses are less than those projected by the JPIA actuary. By utilizing the resources provided by the JPIA such as training in the areas of employee safety, employment practices, infrastructure management, and risk transfer, members have achieved a level of success unmatched in the industry. It is the combined efforts of the entire membership that make these refunds possible.

What programs are having the most impact? While the Property Program contributed to the total amount of refunds, the Liability Program and Workers' Compensation Programs have had the largest impact. Policy year 2014-2015 for both of these Programs was adjusted for the first time. This resulted in favorable adjustments to the members in the amount of \$2.1 million for the Liability Program and \$3.3 million for the Workers' Compensation Program.

Congratulations to all of the members of the JPIA. Again, it is the combined effort and hard work of the members that make these refunds possible.

Written by: David deBernardi, Director of Finance

Affordable Care Act Update

Many parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) remain in effect, including parents' ability to cover children to age 26, no cost preventive care, caps on insurance company profits, an increase to the qualifying income level for Medicaid eligibility, and public exchanges where those without access to employer-sponsored health insurance may purchase health plans, often with income-based subsidies.

The ACA included two mandates, the Individual Mandate and the Employer Mandate. The Individual Mandate, which required individuals to have health insurance, has since been repealed. The Employer Mandate, which applies to employers with 50 or more employees, still requires employers to offer coverage to employees working 30 or more hours per week. The IRS is the mandate enforcement agency, collecting penalties for non-compliance. Therefore, with these mandates came the responsibility to report to the IRS who was covered or offered coverage.

Effective in the 2015 tax year, employers with 50 or more employees were faced with having to issue new tax forms to their employees. This was a daunting task, similar to issuing the first W2 wage statements. Most employers contracted with outside companies, paying thousands of dollars per year to generate the new IRS forms. Since the forms specify coverage per dependent per month, a large amount of data must be compiled to populate the forms. JPIA's online benefits enrollment software, bswift, includes an optional component to create these forms. This was offered to JPIA members at no cost, beginning in the 2014 tax year. The Employee Benefits staff took on the task of compiling and auditing the data to generate the forms for 27 of the JPIA member agencies. These

forms were reviewed and approved by the member agencies before being finalized. This year, for the first time, all forms were filed electronically with the IRS rather than by mail.

In addition to the employers generating IRS forms to prove they offered coverage, health plans must do the same to show which individuals were enrolled in coverage throughout the year. Kaiser and Anthem HMO issued these forms for participants in the fully-insured plans. The JPIA Employee Benefits staff generated and mailed the forms to over 4,700 participants in the self-funded Anthem PPO plans.

Although changes to the ACA have slowed down drastically compared to a few years ago, the JPIA stays abreast of changes and keeps members informed of any necessary actions. And while the Individual Mandate has been repealed, health plans' responsibility to generate IRS tax forms stating who had coverage has not been changed.

Members who have questions about ACA, or anything related to Employee Benefits, should reach out to the JPIA Employee Benefits Department at (800) 736-2292 or email benefits@acwajpia.com.

Written by: Sandra Smith, Employee Benefits Manager

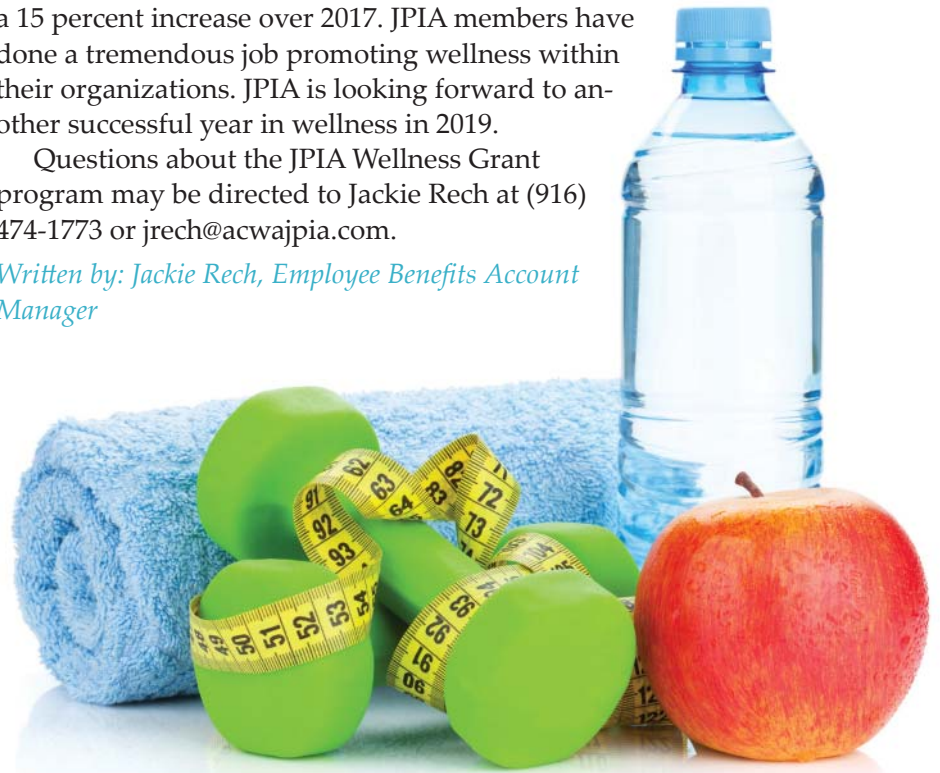
2019 Wellness Grants

The time to apply for 2019 Wellness Grants is just around the corner! Wellness Grants totaling \$75,000 will be available to agencies participating in JPIA's Employee Benefits' medical plans. Information and details about how to apply will be announced in late May.

In 2018, over 60 agencies received Wellness Grants, a 15 percent increase over 2017. JPIA members have done a tremendous job promoting wellness within their organizations. JPIA is looking forward to another successful year in wellness in 2019.

Questions about the JPIA Wellness Grant program may be directed to Jackie Rech at (916) 474-1773 or jrech@acwajpia.com.

Written by: Jackie Rech, Employee Benefits Account Manager



strength • stability • partnership
celebrating 40 years

JPIA 2019 Spring Conference Schedule

Marriott Hotel – Monterey, CA

Monday – May 6, 2019

7:30 a.m. – (San Carlos II - III)
Light Continental Breakfast (for those attending
the meetings)

8 – 9 a.m. (San Carlos II - III)
Property Program Committee Meeting

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (San Carlos II - III)
Workers' Compensation Program Committee
Meeting

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (San Carlos II - III)
Executive Committee Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Ferrantes Bayview)
Pre-Board Meeting Lunch With Keynote Speaker –
RSVP by April 11, 2019, required to attend this event.

1:30 – 4 p.m. (San Carlos II - IV)
Board of Directors' Meeting

4 – 5 p.m. (San Carlos II - IV)
Town Hall Meeting

5 – 6 p.m. (Ferrantes Bayview)
ACWA JPIA Reception

Tuesday – May 7, 2019

7:30 a.m. – (San Carlos II - III)
Light Continental Breakfast (for those attending
the seminars)

8 – 9:45 a.m. (San Carlos II - III)
Seminar I

10 – 11:30 a.m. (San Carlos II - III)
Seminar II

1 – 3 p.m. (San Carlos IV)
Sexual Harassment Prevention for Board Members
& Managers (AB1825, 1661 & 2053)

3 – 5 p.m. (San Carlos I)
JPIA Leadership Meeting (*for alumni of the JPIA
Leadership Program*)

Wednesday – May 8, 2019

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Monterey Conference Center)
Exhibit Booth #314 & 316

Thursday – May 9, 2019

8 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Monterey Conference Center)
Exhibit Booth #314 & 316

Members Asked To Share Comments On JPIA's 40th Anniversary

This year marks the JPIA's 40th anniversary. Over the years, there have been many changes and enhancements to the organization, but stability and partnership have always been the cornerstones of the JPIA's success.

During both the spring and fall conferences, the JPIA will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. During the spring conference, members will have the opportunity to record

their remarks on the JPIA and its milestone anniversary. A videographer will be available all day Monday at the JPIA meetings. Members are encouraged to stop by and share their comments and thoughts.

For those who would like a packet and name badge sent to them, or to RSVP for the pre-board meeting lunch on Monday, the deadline is **April 11**.

W.D. "Bill" Knutson Withdraws From The Executive Committee

Bill Knutson of Yuima Municipal Water District, resigned his position as a JPIA Executive Committee member, after 14 years of service. As a Board of Directors' member, Bill first served on the JPIA's Workers' Compensation Program Committee in 2004. After that, he was elected to the Executive Committee and was subsequently appointed as Chair of the Workers' Compensation Program Committee. He also served as Vice Chair of the JPIA's Property Program Committee and Employee Benefits Program Committee and as a member of the Personnel Committee.

Bill has been a member of the Yuima Board of Directors since 1998, representing Division 4, and is President of the Board. He has served as the District's representative on the San Diego CWA Board and chaired several of its Committees and Ad Hoc Committees. He is also a past Vice Chairman of the Colorado River Board for the State of California.

His education includes the United States Naval Academy, Bachelor of Science, 1952; U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, Aeronautical Engineering, 1959; George Wash-

ington University, Master Business Administration, 1964; and National War College, International Relations, 1970.

He retired from the Navy after 28 years of service. During that time, he served as a Commanding Officer of Master Jet Base Naval Air Station Oceana providing all services for 5,000 Navy and Civilian personnel, plus 24 squadrons of aircraft. He also served as a Navy Program Manager and Test Pilot. Throughout his career with the Navy, he flew 76 different makes/models of aircraft and had 130 combat missions in Vietnam. Before that, Bill spent 15 years in the aerospace industry with Hughes Aircraft and General Dynamics. At Hughes Aircraft, he was Manager of radar, missile, infra-red and laser programs and at General Dynamics, he was the Special Assistant to the Manager of the Stealth A-12 Program.

Bill has served as Past President and/or Chairman of the Board for Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association, The Naval Order of the United States, The Tailhook Association, and The Tailhook Educational Foundation.

He is also a member of The Society of Experimental Test Pilots, The Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, The Navy League, Rotary International, The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, National War College Alumni Association, and The Naval History Foundation.

In a letter to JPIA CEO, Andy Sells, Mr. Knutson stated, "It has been my distinct honor, privilege and education to have been a part of the JPIA for the past 20 some years and on the Executive Committee for 16 years. There are few organizations or businesses that serve their constituents or members as well as the JPIA serves the needs of our member agencies."

The JPIA is forever grateful to the many years of service and expertise that Bill dedicated to the organization and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Written by: Sylvia Robinson, Publications & Web Editor



W.D. "Bill" Knutson of Yuima MWD.



At a JPIA Board of Directors' meeting: L/R Former Executive Committee members Joe Dion and Lou Reinkens with Bill Knutson.



Executive Committee Strategic Planning Session: L/R David Hodgins, Bruce Rupp, Bill Knutson, Karen Thesing, and David Drake.

Faces Of Learning And Change

There is a quote, “Change is the end result of true learning.” If that is true, myriad change will sweep through the JPIA member agencies represented at the Training Conference in Claremont last month.

Following two full days of classes – twenty in total – attendees walked away armed with new knowledge to change the way they operate, change that will impact their agencies. The photos included here show the faces of those attendees (and the agencies that support their attendance) embracing the idea of gaining knowledge and putting that knowledge into practice. It is a proven fact that learning and comprehension changes one’s mind set and promotes safe and better thought-out actions, while contributing to lower claims and an improved bottom line.

Those participating were field, customer care, and human resources personnel, managers, supervisors and superintendents. They hailed from San Diego to Sacramento, reflecting a very rich diversity that is the water industry. And these faces understand the importance of life-long learning with the understanding that their agencies support this desire.

Helping staff do their jobs better, examining possibilities and sharing ideas is just good business. Agencies who plan on their team attending the next JPIA Training Conference in San Diego this October will see the learnings possibly translate into an improved and changed organization.

Written by: Patricia Slaven, Director of Human Resources and Administration



Annual Property Schedule Review

The annual property schedule review was sent to all participating members via electronic mail. Members are encouraged to review the schedule and submit changes no later than April 1, 2019.

The JPIA's partnership with Alliant Services has provided the following Program changes, which are explained in more detail in the review request:

- Expanded list of assets that can be scheduled: meters, fire hydrants, utility poles, fences, flumes, and canals.
- Vehicles and mobile equipment physical damage coverage can be upgraded to replacement cost.

- The coverage period changed to July 1.

The schedule review requests that members verify values on the schedule, delete any assets discarded and submit any new property acquired. All assets must be scheduled if coverage is desired.

The JPIA thanks the members for their assistance in the Property Program schedule review. Please contact the Member Services Department with any questions.

Written by: Nidia Watkins, Member Services Representative II

ACWA JPIA Mission Statement

The ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority is dedicated to consistently and cost effectively providing the broadest possible affordable insurance coverages and related services to its member agencies.