



Insurance Quarterly

The Kansas Insurance Department ■ Sandy Praeger, Commissioner
Winter 2009

System will track agent CE hours

Beginning this summer, insurance agents in Kansas will be able to track online the number of continuing education hours they have accumulated toward license renewal, and once they have enough CE hours, they will be able to renew and print their licenses from their own computers.

The new system will let agents track their own progress. It will also notify them by e-mail several months before their license is set to expire to remind them to start thinking about renewal.

CE providers can submit credit for agents online through software developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and Kansas' new renewal system will provide that information to agents over the Internet. The system is secure, requiring agents to log in with a user ID and password to view their credits and renew.

Since CE providers aren't required to electronically submit the hours an agent takes, agents additionally can mail the department hard copies of certificates, which are keyed into the system manually.

Producer and Agency Licensing manager Nancy Strasburg said the system will make renewals more efficient for both agents and the department, eliminating time and paper and lowering costs.



Kansas Insurance Department

Producer and Agency Licensing manager Nancy Strasburg and Producers Division director Leroy Brungardt are among those at the Kansas Insurance Department working to ensure agents will be able to renew their licenses online beginning this summer. Strasburg is shown here after recently receiving the Associate Professional in Insurance Regulation designation.

Department seeks LTC legislation

The Kansas Insurance Department asked for legislation regarding the Long-Term Care Partnership Exchange. House Bill 2310 would allow the exchange of certain long-term care policies issued on or after Feb. 8, 2006.

The bill addresses the option to exchange an existing long-term care

policy for a policy intended to qualify under the Kansas Partnership for Long-Term Care.

The offer will only apply to products issued by the company that are comparable to the type of policy form and the policy series that the company has certified as Partnership qualified.

Inside

Top honor for actuary

Only two in the nation received this award, including a Kansas regulator.

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No stranger to the field

KID names a new administrator of the Firefighter Relief Act fund.

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Actuary honored with national award

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) honored a Kansas Insurance Department official with a national award at the NAIC's winter meeting in December.



Larry Bruning

Larry Bruning, chief actuary at the department, was one of two insurance department officials awarded the

Robert Dineen Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in insurance regulation.

"Larry truly represents the 'best of the best' in insurance regulation," said NAIC President and Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger. "His tireless efforts to improve regulatory uniformity and cooperation at the national level through the NAIC — all

Robert Dineen Award

Established in 1989 and named in honor of the founder of the NAIC's Support and Services Office, the Robert Dineen Award is presented to an individual in recognition of his or her outstanding achievement as a career regulator. It is the highest individual honor bestowed by the NAIC.

while maintaining a full workload at the Kansas Insurance Department — have not gone unnoticed."

Since joining the Kansas Insurance Department in 2003, Bruning has provided leadership, expertise and counsel in a national effort to establish principles-based reserving, which is a new framework for determining life insurers' required capital and reserves.

Bruning has served as chairman of the NAIC's Life and Health Actuarial

Task Force, and chairman of the Accident and Health Working Group, among other NAIC committee assignments.

He also is an active member with the American Academy of Actuaries, serving on the national organization's board of directors.

"I often hear Larry's praises from fellow regulators and industry representatives, among others," Praeger said. "In particular, they value his thoughtfulness of the issues, professionalism in dealing with difficult matters and overall effectiveness in communicating complex, technical information."

Bruning, of Topeka, has 29 years of experience as an actuary. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Fellow in the Society of Actuaries. He has also taught actuarial mathematics and statistics at Washburn University in Topeka.

Request publications

The Kansas Insurance Department recently released a new booklet titled "ABCs of Insurance." The pocket-sized book is designed to explain the agency's functions, provide information about related organizations, and provide an overview of KID's activities to educate consumers about insurance topics and advocate on behalf of consumers.

The booklet also includes a glossary with sometimes-confusing insurance terms.

The department recently wrapped up another of its key publications, the 2008 Annual Report, which can now be



ordered from the KID Web site.

The report includes statistics and information about the department's activities, as well as information about related funds,

plans and pools.

The 2007 Annual Report is also still available for order.

To request publications, call our Consumer Assistance Hotline at 800-432-2484 or use one of the links below.

LINKS

View or download KID publications here:

www.ksinsurance.org/consumers/publications.htm

Request hard copies of our booklets here:

www.ksinsurance.org/consumers/requestpub.htm



Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger visited Raintree Montessori School on Nov. 20, 2008, in Lawrence as part of Kansas Reads to Preschoolers week, a project by the State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Center for the Book.

Kansas Insurance Department

FRA administrator a longtime firefighter

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger has named John Boyd of Wamego as the Kansas Insurance Department's new administrator of the Firefighter Relief Act.



John Boyd

Boyd, who has been a fire chief in Kansas, Louisiana and Massachusetts, was selected for the position from among a field of

more than 30 candidates.

Prior to his appointment, he was serving as Assistant Emergency Manager for Pottawatomie County.

"We are pleased to have a person of John's experience coordinating our work with Firefighter Relief efforts throughout the state," Commissioner

Praeger said. "His knowledge of fire administration and personnel issues will be a bonus in our efforts to create greater ease of service for our department's regulatory duties."

Career of service

Previously, Boyd was fire chief at Fort Riley from 1996 to 2003, where he managed a \$2.9 million budget and training responsibilities for firefighters, reserves, the National Guard and the Fort Riley community.

From 1993 to 1996 he was fire chief at Fort Polk, La., and from 1978 to 1993 he ascended the ranks to fire chief at Fort Devens, Mass.

He began his firefighting career in 1972 while serving in the U.S. Marines and continued in that capacity until his honorable discharge in 1976.

Boyd began his duties with the de-

partment on Nov. 17. He replaces John Washburn, who retired.

The fund

Boyd will be administering an annual multi-million dollar fund that in 2008 distributed nearly \$8.9 million among 582 local Firefighters Relief Associations across the state. The local association funds go for accident and health, disability, and life insurance premiums used to assist firefighters and their families.

The fund also allocates money for education and research purposes and to replenish the state association's death benefit fund.

The money is generated by a 2 percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written in Kansas for the previous calendar year.

In brief

Commissioner Praeger leads health committee

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger, the most immediate past president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, continues serving as chairwoman of the NAIC's Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee, vice chairwoman of the International Insurance Relations Committee, a member of the Executive Committee for the International Association of Insurance Supervisors and a member of other NAIC committees.

State sees spurt in viatical settlement companies

In 2007, there were five viatical settlement companies admitted to do business in Kansas, says Life Division director Marlyn Burch. There now are 25 with more companies in the process. Burch attributes the influx of interest to passage of 2008's Senate Substitute for House Bill 2110, which dealt with Stranger/Investor-Originated Life Insurance policies, known as STOLIs.

Kansas shares Partnership insight with Iowa

Two members of the Iowa Insurance Division traveled Dec. 30 to meet with Kansas Insurance Department staff members to discuss the structure and implementation of the Kansas Partnership for Long-Term Care.

Legal issues

Regulatory actions, public hearings, legal orders and bulletins are published on the KID Web site. Link to legal issues [here](#).



Kansas Insurance Department

Life Division director Marlyn Burch, at back in suit, led approximately 30 members of Leadership Liberal on a tour of the Kansas Insurance Department's building on Feb. 16. Burch has worked for the department since 1961 and is sometimes called upon to give tours of the building, which is on the state and national registers of historic places.

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