

TAPIA Times

Fall 2017 Conference ★ November 2-3 ★ Austin

You're busy helping survivors of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma (along with all your other customers). That's what you do and that's why we like you. We're just asking for a couple of days of your time to regroup, refresh and get back in touch with your inner public adjuster. It's going to be a great conference—even better if YOU are here! Look at what's in store:

- **Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is our keynote speaker!** He'll talk about legislation, current events, and trends that directly impact the public insurance adjusting profession. This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of Texas' highest elected officials.
- The recent Fort Worth District Court of Appeals ruling against Lon Smith Roofing Company was a major victory in the fight against the unauthorized practice of public adjusting. **Attorney H. Dustin Fillmore III and other key players** will talk about how it happened, how TAPIA helped, and what it all means for Texas' public adjusters.
- **Kyson Johnson, Prosecution Team Director and Fraud Counsel for TDI's Fraud Unit**, will talk about TDI's fight against insurance fraud and how TAPIA and individual public adjusters can help.
- Sessions about **wind and water issues** associated with the recent hurricanes, **handling municipal claims, ethics, and case law updates**.
- And, it's our **annual membership meeting**. We'll hold elections, vote on new (and improved) bylaws, and update you on some changes we think you'll like.
- We've applied for **seven CE credits**. You won't find a better buy for education credits!

Check inside for more information about registration and hotel reservations! *Questions? Call 512-299-6680 or send email to TAPIA@mytapia.org.*



The Texas Association of Public Insurance Adjusters promotes the highest standard of professional and ethical practice in the field of public adjusting. TAPIA members are the leaders in the industry. We protect the rights and interests of insured home and business owners dealing with property loss after a fire, severe weather, or other disastrous event.

From TAPIA President Curtis Hodge, Jr.



First, our hearts and prayers are with those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. These storms will forever change our state.

We are laser-focused on helping our clients get fair and proper

settlements from insurance companies. Let's not forget the trauma and loss they have experienced. Let our work reflect the reality that our business opportunity is the result of another person's pain.

In that vein, it's important we make extra sure we are fully familiar with our clients' individual insurance policies. To meet the current demand, insurance carriers are relying on company and independent adjusters with widely varying experience and skill. Especially at this time, it's up to us to understand and represent the coverages and rights of our customers.

Also, in these competitive times, I think it's important that all public adjusters - especially TAPIA members - pause to think about our ethical and respectful obligations to one another. TAPIA has a *Code of Professional Conduct* (find it on our website). But, really, it's a simple matter of "Do unto others..."

This is my final article as your President, so I want to end with some of this year's accomplishments. Your elected Officers and Board members have worked tirelessly to "step up our game" as an Association.

You will be hearing more about these at the Fall 2017 Conference and future emails, but here's the high-level list:

- Getting through the Legislative Session without major impact on our profession. (Many thanks to our lobbyist, Jake Posey, and Legislative Chair Jim Beneke.)

- Ethics & Grievance policy and procedure for investigating complaints about TAPIA members. (Thanks Kelli Rogers, E&G Chair.)
- New member application approval process. New, more thorough, application forms. A revision of membership levels: PA Member, Affiliate Member, and Attorney Affiliate Member. (Thanks Chris Lackey, Membership Chair.)
- Complete overhaul of our bylaws (which you'll vote on in November) and a new policy and procedure manual that will help us do things in a consistent and accountable manner. (Thanks Kaye Beneke, Executive Director)
- New procedures for selecting conference speakers including an open call for presentations for each conference, a committee screening and selection of proposals, a streamlined CEU application process. (Thanks Brian Haden, Education Chair.)
- Expanded and equitable conference sponsorship opportunities. Exciting new conference plans for Spring 2018. (Thanks Mike Fried, Conference Chair.)
- A new website (coming soon!) with a much-requested searchable member database, a member-only portal, and other great features. (Thanks Loy Vickers, Public Relations Chair.)
- The first-ever TAPIA member referral list for Hurricane Harvey survivors.

Special thanks to Vice-President Lorinda Mikesell, Secretary Loy Vickers, and Treasurer Gary Pennington for their steady support and ongoing efforts to grow and strengthen TAPIA.

We are a volunteer Board. It's sometimes hard to balance personal, work, and TAPIA responsibilities. I appreciate and thank all who have put TAPIA first at the times it was needed.

I'm proud to have served as your President and look forward to my continued service to the Association in the years to come.

New registration options offered for Fall 2017

Over the summer, the TAPIA Board of Directors studied and revamped the structure for conference registration fees. The primary goals of the process were to:

- Provide TAPIA Public Adjuster and Affiliate members with quality training, CE credits, targeted networking, and a worthwhile conference experience at a low cost as a meaningful member benefit.
- Give non-member PAs a chance to see what TAPIA is all about with a *one-time* visitor rate.
- Increase membership by allowing returning non-members to register at the member rate plus TAPIA dues.

Here are the registration fees, effective with the Fall 2017 Conference:

- Public Adjuster, Affiliate, and Attorney Affiliate members: \$149
- Non-member Public Adjuster - 1st Conference: \$195
- Non-member Public Adjuster - Returning: \$649 (new category)
- Non-member Attorney: \$1500 (new category)

Not registered? There's still time!



But you must hurry.
Visit the TAPIA website for all
you need to sign up and pay.
www.mytapia.org

Willie's watching!
Do it today!

Coming to Austin?

Reserve your room now!

Deadline is Oct. 15!



Doubletree Hilton Austin

6505 N Interstate 35
Austin, Texas 78752
1-512-454-3737

Special TAPIA Rate:
\$135 Double or King

Reserve online using the
link on mytapia.org

OR

Call 1-800-866-3126

Tell them you're with TAPIA!

TAPIA Officers and Board of Directors

Visit mytapia.org for Board member contact info

President: Curtis Hordge, Jr.	Past Presidents
Vice President: Lorinda Mikesell	2016 - Don Wood
Treasurer: Gary Pennington	2015 - Gary Timmons
Secretary: Loy Vickers	2014 - Thomas Ross
Director: Michael Fried	2013 - Doug Morris
Director: Brian Haden	2012 - Clay Morrison
Director: Chris Lackey	2011 - Art Jansen, Jr.
Director: Kelli Rogers	2010 - Jim Beneke
Director: Kermith Sonnier, Sr.	



Kaye Beneke, Executive Director
1717 W. Sixth Street, #220
Austin, TX 78703
512-299-6680
TAPIA@mytapia.org

There's strength in numbers—

TAPIA invites YOU to join our ranks!

TAPIA represents the leaders in public adjusting and related fields in Texas. Our members uphold and promote the highest standards in professional and ethical conduct. We are a respected voice for the industry in the Texas Legislature and Texas Department of Insurance.

All members get discounted conference registration, TAPIA news and legislative updates, use of the Association logo, and listing on the TAPIA website.

Affiliate and Attorney Affiliate members enjoy increased visibility in the PA community through select sponsorship opportunities and participation in TAPIA events.

Note: In September, TAPIA's Board created a new category in response to member requests for more diversity in our affiliate membership. The new Affiliate Membership is open to non-attorneys who directly support the work of public insurance adjusters.

Of course, we highly value and regard the lawyers and firms that have been affiliated with TAPIA for a long time. Nothing changes for them -especially our gratitude- except for the category name change to "Attorney Affiliate Member."

Public Adjuster Member – \$500

- Public Adjuster licensed by the State of Texas.
- Demonstrates public adjusting as primary focus of business.
- Demonstrates practical knowledge of and compliance with Chapter 4102 (Public Insurance Adjusters) of the Texas Insurance Code, including Subchapter D "Prohibited Conduct," which defines the ethical and professional standards public adjusters must adhere to in dealing with clients, law firms, contractors, and others in related industries.

Affiliate Member – \$2000

- An individual, partnership, corporation, or nonprofit organization that directly supports the work of public insurance adjusters (e.g. accountant, business insurance provider, data professional, supplier, or other professional that supports the work of public adjusters)
- Not engaged in the practice of law.
- Not engaged in the profession of public insurance adjusting.
- Not licensed as an independent adjuster.
- Demonstrates practical knowledge of and compliance with Chapter 4102 (Public Insurance Adjusters) of the Texas Insurance Code, including Subchapter D "Prohibited Conduct," which addresses the ethical and professional standards that define appropriate interaction with public adjusters.

Attorney Affiliate Member – \$2500

- An individual attorney or a law firm that supports the work of public adjusters.
- Demonstrates practical knowledge of and compliance with Chapter 4102 (Public Insurance Adjusters) of the Texas Insurance Code, including Subchapter D "Prohibited Conduct," which addresses the ethical and professional standards that define appropriate interaction with public adjusters.

It's easy to apply for TAPIA membership:

1. Visit mytapia.org
2. Find the forms on the Join menu
3. Follow the instructions on the forms.

Questions? Send email to TAPIA@mytapia.org.