



PERISCOPE

PENNSYLVANIA SURPLUS LINES ASSOCIATION

February 2006

COMING UP...2006 CALENDAR

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| March 11-14 | AAMGA Automation & Agency Management San Antonio, TX 610/225-1999 |
| April 5 | Reading I Day 610/929-9428 |
| April 13 | Central PA I Day, Camp Hill 717/252-3086 |
| April 18-19 | PSLA Annual Membership Meeting, Hershey |
| April 27 | Pittsburgh I Day 412/471-7488 |

PSLA STARTS 2006 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The PA Surplus Lines Association (PSLA) inaugurated its 2006 membership campaign with a major change. For the first time, membership renewal notices and new solicitations were sent out electronically. Dues remain the same at \$200 for a Full Member (both PA resident and non-resident), \$50 Branch (PA resident and non-resident), and \$100 for an Associate Supporting Member. A description of each membership type may be found in the Member Services section of the PSLA web site, www.pasla.org.

LIVE SURPLUS LINES WORKSHOPS NOW AVAILABLE OVER THE INTERNET

PSLA is using an interactive internet service to allow its Procedures Manual training workshops to reach more surplus lines licensees. Links to registration for these sessions appear on the PSLA web site, www.pasla.org (click "Register for On-line Training, then select the "upcoming" tab). The next three Workshops are scheduled for March 15, April 12, and May 24. There is no cost to attend these workshops but interested persons must pre-register.

In addition to the on-line format, the traditional classroom format is also available with the next one scheduled for May 17 at the PSLA office in Exton.

PSLA NEWSLETTER CHANGES FORMAT

Periscope, the newsletter of PSLA, has a new format. Gone is the four-page quarterly publication that was mailed via hard copy. The new format will be shorter in length but distributed on a bi-monthly basis via email. Our goal is to provide information pertinent to you and your business in a more timely and convenient fashion. Please contact Memberservices@pasla.org to share your thoughts on our new format.

REMINDER: 2005 TAX PAYMENTS DUE

The surplus lines tax levied by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is three percent (3%) of taxable gross premiums charged less return premium for insurance placed with either an eligible surplus lines insurer or other non-admitted insurer. A Gross Premium Tax Report (RCT 123) with your tax payment must be filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue on or before January 31 of each year for the completed preceding calendar year whether or not any surplus lines business was produced in the preceding calendar year.

Please do not send your tax payments to the Stamping Office or make checks payable to the Stamping Office. Taxes are to be remitted and made payable to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

The Stamping Office requires only a copy of the RCT-123 with your Customer ID Number noted, be faxed or mailed to the Stamping Office.

PLANS TAKING SHAPE FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PSLA's Annual Meeting Working Group is putting the final touches on a program for the Annual Membership Meeting to be held on April 18-19, 2006, at the Hotel Hershey, Hershey, PA.

The United States' insurance market was buffeted by massive 2005 natural disasters as well as the threat of

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PLANS TAKING SHAPE FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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non-renewal of Federal terrorism insurance legislation, what's next? Now that the year is over, things may have settled down just enough to pause and reflect on agency disaster planning as well as to what advice to give clients.

The theme of this year's Annual Membership Meeting will focus on "Life Before and With TRIA." Some highlights:

- Reauthorization of TRIA (TRIA 2): What is in it and how will it affect the industry?
- Insurance Privacy Compliance: Have you met the Third Privacy Rule?
- Disaster Mitigation
- Commercial Insurance Flash Points
- Orientation to PSLA Electronic Filing System (Demonstration)

Formal invitations to attend will be sent via email shortly. Overnight room reservations (\$224 group room rate) should be made directly with the Hotel Hershey by calling 800/437-7439. The cut-off date for this rate is March 17, 2006.

PSLA STAMPING OFFICE NOW ACCEPTS FILING SUBMISSIONS VIA FAX

Effective immediately, PSLA will accept any submissions of Filings, Endorsements, monthly 1620 reports, and copies of annual RCT-123 reports via fax as well as hard copy (via the U.S. Postal Service). Submissions should be sent to our main fax number (610) 594-7623 with a cover letter including your company name, PSLA Customer ID number, and total number of pages being sent. All submissions must follow the current "Order of Paperwork" procedures as described on page 14 of the PSLA Procedures Manual. Please contact our office if you have any questions on this procedure.

LICENSES EXPIRE

Please note that all PA resident and non-resident surplus lines licenses expire at the end of February 2006. Licensees are legally responsible for ensuring their own renewals. If you wish to renew on-line (advantage is immediate renewal), use the "Bureau of Producer Services" link on the PSLA web site or go directly to www.sircon.com.

EDUCATION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR 2nd QUARTER 2006

PSLA's 2006 Continuing Education sessions will take place in Exton, Harrisburg, and Warrendale in the second quarter. The schedule is:

- * **May 16:** Exton Commercial Insurance Flash Points & Insurance Department Update
- * **May 17:** Harrisburg History of Surplus Lines
- * **May 18:** Warrendale E&O In-Depth

PSLA members receive a discount, paying \$50.00 for the four-credits of instruction compared to a non-member rate of \$65.00. For details contact Joan Troutman 717/732-7255 or Memberservices@pasla.org.