

INSURANCE COUNCIL OF TEXAS

service, information, and representation for the property and casualty insurance industry

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Dianne Morris Honored with Raymond Mauk Award



Dianne Morris, former president of the Association Casualty Insurance Company, was presented the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award Thursday, July 15, in Austin, at the 19th Annual Mid-Year Property and Casualty Symposium. Morris becomes the fourteenth recipient of the prestigious award and its first woman.

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) presents the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award at its Mid-Year Property and Casualty Insurance Symposium each year. It is the Council's highest honor and is intended to bestow recognition on those whose labor has made a significant difference in the business of insurance.

Morris began her trailblazing career in Dallas in 1967 with Continental Insurance Company. She spent five years in commercial underwriting at Northwestern National Insurance Company. She transferred to Austin in 1970 where she later joined Austin Surplus Lines for three years.

In 1977, Morris began working for Association Insurance and was involved in starting a new company, Association Casualty Insurance Company in 1978. As a single parent and working in what has traditionally been a man's world, Morris started as a commercial rater, but held numerous positions in commercial underwriting as she began her climb to the top.

Early in her career Morris joined the Austin Association of Insurance Professionals and chaired an education committee that helped train women wanting to get started in insurance business. The course was a financial success and allowed the organization to fund scholarships for women pursuing their Certified Insurance Counselors (CIC) designation. This was just one of many efforts she undertook to mentor and advance the careers of professional insurance women.

Morris became vice president of Association Casualty Insurance in 1984. Her responsibilities expanded to include claims and loss control when she was named Chief Operating Officer in 1995. Morris became president in 2001 and just recently retired after working 33 years at Association Casualty Insurance.

Morris was also the first woman president of the Association of Fire and Casualty Insurance Companies of Texas (AFACT) from 2006 to 2008.

About the Award

The Raymond Mauk Award honors former Texas Fire Commissioner Raymond Mauk and annually recognizes someone who has made a notable contribution to the Texas property and casualty insurance industry.

Mauk enjoyed a long and distinguished career and held many positions of leadership within his company and industry organizations.

More than 70 years ago, Commissioner Mauk was convinced that fundamental change was needed to protect the insurance buying public and the integrity of the marketplace from the misapplication of rates and forms.

To accomplish his goal, Mauk envisioned the creation of a central checking office that would enforce good business practices and audit the insurance industry's paperwork for errors and competitive greed. Faced with opposition and a resistance to change, Mauk labored for two years to build support from both agents and companies.

By February 1935, Mauk's leadership had led to the successful establishment of the Texas Insurance Checking Office, an institution, which continues to serve the Texas industry today.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of approximately 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas.

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