



# Iowa ChapterGram

## CPCU Society Iowa Chapter

April 2012

[www.cpcu-iowa.org](http://www.cpcu-iowa.org)

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CPCU Society Social Media



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## Upcoming Events

April 19, 2012 11:30 am	Holiday Inn - Mercy Campus	Speaker: Frank Bigley, Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Reinsurance & Catastrophes
May 17, 2012 7:30 am	Des Moines Golf & Country Club	Speaker: Barbara Cox P&C Guaranty Funds
June 14, 2012 11 am	Legacy Golf Course	CPCU Golf Outing

## Message from the President

April and spring have arrived. We broke records in March. So far 2012 is starting off very well. Your CPCU Chapter is also in good shape. The attendance at the January and February Chapter lunches were record breaking. We are set for a great meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus. Our speaker will be Frank Bigley with Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company, who will be providing us with a reinsurance market update. Let's see if we can hit 80 attendees again!

The 2012 CPCU Ethics Day took place March 7<sup>th</sup> at Drake University. The keynote speaker was Jim Lindell, President of Thorsten Consulting Group Inc., and he did an excellent job with his talk on "Ethics - A Line in the Sand."



Also at the April meeting we will elect Chapter Officers and Directors for 2012 - 2013. The candidates are:

- Connie Doud - President
- Erin Osier - Vice President
- Kim Smetzer - Secretary
- Rose Nwaturuocha - Treasurer
- Adam Haugerud - Director of Community Involvement
- Stephanie Wells - Director of Professional Development

Enjoy spring and I'll see you at the April luncheon.

"Vision without execution is hallucination." Thomas Edison  
-- Richard Keith, President, Iowa Chapter



## New Designee Spotlight

**Douglas A. Nicodemus, CPCU, AIC, AINS**  
**Commercial Claims Manager**  
**Farm Bureau Companies**



I started my insurance carrier with Nationwide Insurance in March 1996 as an in-office claims representative in Cleveland, Ohio. In June 1997, I relocated to Richmond, Virginia, as field bodily injury specialist and in July 1999 moved to Des Moines, Iowa. I held many positions during my tenure at Nationwide Insurance including senior claims representative, claims manager, and project management. In August 2007, I started with Farm Bureau P&C Insurance Companies in West Des Moines, Iowa, as a quality assurance claims auditor. Currently, I manage our Workers' Compensation, Commercial Claims, and Subrogation departments.

I earned my Associate in Claims (AIC) designation in 2005 and started to look more into the CPCU designation. When I interviewed with Farm Bureau, I quickly realized the emphasis that Farm Bureau placed on continuing education and more importantly the CPCU program. This is when I started to get serious about the program and tried to take 2-3 exams per year. When I was promoted into a leadership role, I knew this was something that I needed to accomplish as quickly as possible. How could I, as a manager, ask my staff to pursue designations if I did not have them or what kind of shadow was I leaving for them? Dedication to the testing materials is very important or you'll find yourself cramming at the last minute. I never had much success with cramming and started to carve out time during lunch to study for the exams. This is how I found success in studying - because once I got home, family life took over.

Casting the proper shadow was significant in my quest for the CPCU designation; however, I feel another strong attribute the program offers is the exposure to all areas of the insurance industry. My career has consisted of many different positions, but most positions have been in P&C claims. I once had a manager tell me the only way to accomplish our goals is to gain experience in all the disciplines of insurance (sales/marketing, underwriting, and claims). He compared it to a three legged stool with our goal of getting to the top. I have not branched out into other disciplines of insurance; however, I feel the CPCU program has exposed me to the other areas.

In the fall of 2011, I attended the CPCU Society Annual Conference and Conferment Ceremony in Las Vegas. I plan to get more involved in the CPCU Iowa Chapter and to help others better understand the benefits the CPCU program has to offer.

I just finished the book "They Don't Teach Corporate in College," a twenty-something's guide to the business world. I found this book very interesting and hopefully it will be beneficial to gaining a better understanding of the differences in generations.

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## Find Us at Our New Home on Facebook!

As with anything related to social media, the only constant is that things will change - and we need to keep up! While a Facebook group was once the best option for our CPCU Chapter, a newer option called a Page is now available that fits more nicely with our social media goals. Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/lowa-Chapter-of-the-CPCU-Society/213961748698349>.

## Grinnell Sub-Chapter Donates to Montezuma Fire Dept.

Each year, the Grinnell Sub-Chapter selects an organization in the local area to receive a charitable donation. This year they chose the Montezuma, Iowa, Volunteer Fire Department. Montezuma is the Poweshiek County seat, located southeast of Grinnell, where several of Grinnell Mutual's employees reside.

Local fire volunteers spend many hours every year protecting the health and property of their community's residents. Since all fire and ambulance reports must be submitted online to the State of Iowa, it is important for current technology to be available. The Montezuma Fire Department's computer was on its last "gig" and had been malfunctioning regularly. The fire department is funded entirely by private donations and fundraising events, so when expenses such as this arise, additional assistance is needed. The Sub-Chapter's donation to the department paid for a new desktop computer and anti-virus license.



Funds were raised through employee donations at Grinnell Mutual and a check was presented to the fire chief. Pictured are: (left to right) Heather Sisson, Sub-Chapter President; Chris Widmer, Montezuma Fire Chief; Todd Milburn, Sub-Chapter VP; Adam Moore, Sub-Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

## Circle of Excellence Update - Meeting Feedback

As you know, the Iowa Chapter is a perennial recipient of the CPCU Society's Circle of Excellence Recognition - Gold Level. This year, the Society added a "With Distinction" Component to the Circle of Excellence Gold Level, and we are aiming to achieve this new level of excellence. To achieve "With Distinction," we must survey attendees at each Chapter meeting. Thanks to those of you who have spent a few minutes providing your feedback. In addition to meeting the needs of the Circle of Excellence program, the feedback is very helpful in determining topics and speakers for the upcoming year. Below is a summary of the ratings received since this program began in 2011.

Month	Topic	Overall Rating (out of 5)
November 2011	I-Day	3.89
December 2011	DMARC Food Pantry	4.63
January 2012	Vaughan Institute	4.50
February 2012	Updates from the NAIC	4.22

## 2012 Scholarship Recipients

The recipients of the 2012 Iowa Chapter Scholarships are Carson Herold (Ted Lussem Achievement Scholarship) and Logan Johnson. Carson and Logan will each receive \$1,500 to be used towards future educational endeavors. Additional information about Carson and Logan will be included in a future ChapterGram. Congratulations to you both!

## 2012 Golf Outing Registration Form

Join us for the 2012 CPCU Golf Outing

Thursday, June 14, 2012

[The Legacy Golf Club](#) – Norwalk, Iowa

11:00 AM Shotgun Start

Registration and driving range open at 10:00 AM

Come out and join your fellow CPCUs for an afternoon of fun at the Legacy Golf Club on June 14. This year our chapter will be raising money to support Blank Children's Hospital.

The entry fee includes green fees for 18 holes, range balls prior to tee time, use of a cart with GPS and real time scoring, plus dinner after golf. There will be prizes for the place winners in two flights along with contest holes such as longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt. **NEW THIS YEAR** - win \$10,000 cash with a hole in one on #5. Also, a hole in one on the remaining par 3's can win up to \$750 in gift certificates to the Legacy Clubhouse. You could be the big winner!

If you prefer, you can join us for GOLF ONLY or DINNER ONLY as well. If you do not have a complete foursome we will try to match you up. Dinner will begin around 5:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded during dinner. Registration deadline is Wednesday, June 6, 2012.

Fees may be paid by credit card by registering at [www.CPCU-Iowa.org](http://www.CPCU-Iowa.org)

Fees may be paid by check by mailing the registration form and check with full payment to:

CPCU of Iowa Golf Outing  
c/o Association Insight  
1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway  
Ankeny, IA 50015

Any questions please contact:

Brian Wright, CPCU, AIAF at 515-345-2686 or e-mail [brian.w.wright@emcins.com](mailto:brian.w.wright@emcins.com) or

Stephanie Wells, CPCU, MPA at 515-508-2497 or e-mail [wellss5@nationwide.com](mailto:wellss5@nationwide.com)

<b><u>Golfer 1</u></b>		<b><u>Golfer 2</u></b>	
Agency/Company		Agency/Company	
Email:		Email:	
Phone no:		Phone no:	
Golf & Dinner \$80	Golf Only \$70	Golf & Dinner \$80	Golf Only \$70
Dinner Only \$20		Dinner Only \$20	
<b><u>Golfer 3</u></b>		<b><u>Golfer 4</u></b>	
Agency/Company		Agency/Company	
Email:		Email:	
Phone No:		Phone No:	
Golf & Dinner \$80	Golf Only \$70	Golf & Dinner \$80	Golf Only \$70
Dinner Only \$20		Dinner Only \$20	



## Chapter Meeting

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Date & Time                      Thursday, April 19. 11:30 am

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Location                              Holiday Inn - Mercy Campus ([map](#))

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Speaker                                Frank Bigley, Farmers Mutual Hail

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Topic                                      Reinsurance Market Update

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**Speaker Bio:** Frank Bigley is a Senior Vice President & Manager of the Reinsurance Department at Farmers Mutual Hail. Frank began his insurance career with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in 1971. He has worked in the reinsurance industry since 1977, holding various positions at Christiania General, Motors Re, Navigators Group, and Altrisc Services. He joined Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa in June 2000 as Vice President & Reinsurance Department Manager with responsibility for all assumed and ceded reinsurance activities. In January 2006, Frank was promoted to Senior Vice President. Frank earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing at Villanova University and a Master of Business Administration in Management from Rutgers University.



To enable us to have an accurate count for food purposes, please mail or e-mail reservations by April 13, 2012 to:

[cpcu-iowa@associationinsight.com](mailto:cpcu-iowa@associationinsight.com)

Make checks payable to:        Iowa Chapter - CPCU

Mail checks to:                      Iowa Chapter CPCU  
c/o Association Insight  
1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway  
Ankeny, IA 50015

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_                      Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \$25 per person

To register by credit card, visit our chapter website ([www.cpcu-iowa.org](http://www.cpcu-iowa.org)) and click on the link on the main page under Events.

For questions about the meeting, not concerning reservations, please call Connie Doud at (515) 724-5092.