



May 2015 • A Monthly Publication of the Atlanta Claims Association



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**Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
Rivermont Golf & County Club**

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# From the President



Dear Fellow ACA Members,

They say time flies when you're having fun. The past 5 years working on the Board of the Atlanta Claims Association has flown by for me. Seems like just a short time ago I served on my first committee under Shirley Hinton for the 2010 Fall Casino Night. I then served as Assistant Secretary in 2011 and have moved up the proverbial ladder learning the various responsibilities each year since. Now it is my honor, as I am writing to you, to be the President of the Association.

First I want to thank Kowalski Brown who has fearlessly led us as President this past year. It was a year of change and challenges. His service was truly appreciated. The decision to relocate the Annual Convention back to Cobb was a brave, bold move made by Kowalski with the support of the ACA Board. He and Assistant Treasurer and Convention Chair Jaclyn Chapman, were committed to this move. The folks that attended the 93rd Annual ACA Convention will tell you it was a lot of fun and very educational. The Education Committee, led by Teri Zarillo, put on a great day of helpful and informative sessions. We received a lot of positive feedback on the convention. A big thank you goes out to all of those that assisted and participated in this event. We will have more articles, details, photos, and information to follow in the next issue of ClaimsScene.

Congratulations to all the nominees for the 2014 Claims Person of the Year award. The competition was fierce this year as we had all very dedicated, professional, hard working candidates to make a final selection from. The Claims Person of the Year was announced at Convention. Special Congratulations to 2014 Claims Person of the Year, Valerie Wynn of Selective Insurance Company of America.

We have an opportunity for you to meet the incoming Officers and Board of Directors at the May 7th luncheon at Hyatt/Villa Christina. We hope you will join us to hear some of the plans and ideas that we have for the upcoming year. You will also have the opportunity to voice any questions or concerns you may have about the Association. Our Annual Golf and Tennis Event follows on May 12th. Check out the website for registration for both these events.

Speaking of the website, a special thank you goes out to Esther Powers, who has been working on fine tuning some of the issues on the website since we rolled it out last year. We are attempting to make our website very user friendly so that our members can access information on what is coming up and see what has been happening in the association. Our members can log on and peruse the directory of membership on line, renew their membership, or register for upcoming events. In our 2014 survey you asked for more advance notice of events. We are striving this year to put an annual calendar of events on the website for your ease in scheduling and planning.

Atlanta Claims Association has been known to be the largest Association in the Insurance Industry in Atlanta since it was formed in 1923. There have been a lot of changes over the 93 years in the Association and in the industry as a whole. Some good, some not so much. Change doesn't stop; changes will continue. As an Association of committed insurance professionals we will continue to grow and serve our members thru those changes.

Look for some exciting news as we roll out the new year. In the coming months you will hear about plans for events, activities, and opportunities for you as we learn, grow, and embrace the industry. The Board has put in a lot of work into serving the members of the Association but it has also been a great learning experience and a lot of fun. We hope you will join us.

Best Regards,  
Linda L. Mihyar, AIC, AIS, AINS

## Atlanta Claims Association Mission Statement:

To strengthen the professional life of those involved in the claims industry by providing members with education and network opportunities while promoting a positive public image of the claims industry.

**Thursday,  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Villa Christina  
4000 Summit Boulevard  
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12:00 - 1:00 PM

11:30 AM Registration  
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Vol. LXXI, No. 5, May 2015



# New ACA Officers 2015-2016



**President**  
Linda Mihyar



**Treasurer**  
Pete Mobley



**Assistant Treasurer**  
Annette Ward



**First Vice President**  
Pamela Glick



**Secretary**  
Ann Wright



**Assistant Secretary**  
Jaclyn Chapman



**Second Vice President**  
Tammie Kater



*Photos from the swearing in ceremony*

## Directors

Evelyn Brown  
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Frances Harper  
Karan Karabinos  
Rick Linville  
Essie McMillan  
Tom Senderhauf  
Tom Sippel  
Doug White  
Graham Wiggins  
Robin Williams  
Rodean Wilson

**Immediate Past President** - Kowalski Brown

## Committee Chairs

**Advertising** – Evelyn Brown  
**Claims Person of the Year** – Frances Harper & Ann Wright  
**Claimscene** – Tammie Kater  
**Convention** – Jaclyn Chapman  
**Directory** – Esther Powers  
**Education** – Greg Presmanes  
**Fall Outing** – Robin Williams  
**Finance** – Pete Mobley & Les Hanks  
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**Internet Communications** – Taylor Putney  
**Legislation** – Duane Cochenour  
**Luncheon** – Annette Ward  
**Membership** – Patty Bakmaz  
**Nominating** – Kowalski Brown  
**Procedure Manual** – Doug Burrell  
**Public Relations** – Vickie Pierce  
**Scholarship** – Parks Stone  
**Speakers** – Pamela Glick  
**Special Events**  
**Student Liaison** – Mimi Phan  
**Worker's Comp** – Michael Hammond

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## Save The Date

### Thursday May 7, 2015

Please mark your calendars for Thursday May 7, 2015 for our May Luncheon which will be an opportunity to Meet and Greet our incoming Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs. This will be an opportunity to meet the incoming Board and discuss the events and activities that are to be planned for the upcoming year. Your input and participation will be welcome. Those that are interested in joining a committee are encouraged to attend. This will be a great chance to network and hear about the upcoming opportunities for our members. We look forward to seeing you then. The May Luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Villa Christina. Registration begins at 11:30. Additional details will follow.

### Tuesday, May 12, 2015

We are pleased to announce that this year's Atlanta Claims Association Golf & Tennis Outing will be held at Rivermont Country Club (www.rivermontcountryclub.com). For those of you who have joined us in the past for this event, we look forward to seeing you again this year. And for those of you who are new to Atlanta Claims or who just haven't joined us in the past, we welcome you to this fun event and look forward to meeting you! This Outing is one of the most anticipated and well-attended events of the year.

New this year is that Atlanta Claims Association is partnering with The Wounded Warrior Project as our charity sponsor. A portion of the proceeds from this Outing will be donated to The Wounded Warrior Project. We are very excited about this commitment that Atlanta Claims Association has made and believe it will make this fun Outing that much more special. Registration to be available on line in March.

## Atlanta Claims Association Scholarship Winners

The winners of the Atlanta Claims Association scholarship s are Truman Phan - GSU, Emily Lauterbach - UGA and Lennis George - Kid's Chance.



(Left to Right) Truman Phan - GSU, Emily Lauterbach - UGA and Lennis George - Kid's Chance



# Claims Person of the Year Award



The James C. Fickling Memorial Award for Claims Person of the Year—the ACA award's official name—originated in 1970 by Idus Q. Wicker. Mr. Wicker, an attorney and partner with the Miami law firm of Wicker, Smith, Blomqvist and DeVant, established this award as a tribute to his friend and fellow ACA member Jim Fickling, Claims Manager of Georgia Power Company, who died in a tragic accident. The large memorial trophy was presented to The Atlanta Claims Association in January 1970. Jim Fickling and Idus Wicker have both passed away. Their wives, Ruby Fickling and Vivianne Wicker, attended the annual banquet as honored guests for many years, but also have passed away.

## 2014 Claims Person of the Year



The 2014 Claims Person of the Year was announced at the Officers Installation and Awards Banquet held during the Annual Convention on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

The winner is Valerie Wynn of Selective Insurance Company of America!

## Past Award Winners

- 1970 D.T. Sims
- 1971 G.P. Turner
- 1972 L.J. Case
- 1973 H.N. Brooks, Sr.
- 1974 Betty J. Moore
- 1975 Byron R. Hays
- 1976 Brent Armstrong
- 1977 Patrick Schaaf
- 1978 George Griffin
- 1979 Teresa Cowart
- 1980 Christie Wilson
- 1981 Stephen Brown
- 1982 Sally Copeland Stone
- 1983 Jim McAllister
- 1984 Barbara Wilson
- 1985 Kathy Barnes
- 1986 Tim Eckles
- 1987 Robert W. Todd
- 1988 Richard Smith
- 1989 Mark Jones
- 1990 Renee Davis Allison
- 1991 Michael Francis, Jr.
- 1992 Donald Ouzts
- 1993 Myron Walker
- 1994 Lillian Cox
- 1995 Diana Roe Hollis
- 1996 Faye Presley
- 1997 Carol Morgan
- 1998 Mark Franke
- 1999 Nathan Peacock
- 2000 Charlotte Sadtler
- 2001 Sara Minick
- 2002 Greg Stewart
- 2003 Karen Sandidge
- 2004 Shirl Baggett
- 2005 Wayne Harris
- 2006 Grady Amason
- 2007 Robin Weidman
- 2008 Les Sychak
- 2009 Susan Tomsic
- 2010 Ann Wright
- 2011 Frances Harper
- 2012 Pamela Glick
- 2013 Linda L. Mihyar

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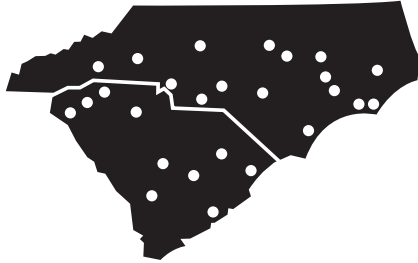
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