

The Risk Retention Reporter

CICA Looks Forward to Fall Forum

The **Captive Insurance Companies Association** will be holding its Fall Forum from October 10 to 13 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa in Tucson, Arizona. The Fall Forum will be the first non-regional event to be held with in-person attendance since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in March of 2020.

The 2020 CICA International Conference, initially planned for March 2020, was one of the first cancellations of the pandemic. Now, a year and a half later, CICA is looking forward to holding an in-person event again.

Although a spike in coronavirus cases from the Delta Variant has caused some concern over in-person activities, CICA President Dan Towle sent along comments to the *Risk Retention Reporter* on August 26, 2021, on the steps CICA is taking to ensure a safe and successful Fall Forum.

“We are hearing that our members are eager to get back to in-person meetings and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for our Fall Forum. CICA is closely monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 and the Delta variant,” said Towle. “As a community of leaders in risk management and captive insurance, CICA is encouraging everyone to do their part to help make this the safest event possible by getting vaccinated prior to attending the meeting if you have not already done so. We realize vaccination is a personal choice. It’s also a choice each of us can make to help keep ourselves and our captive colleagues healthy and ready to meet and conduct business.”

In addition to encouraging attendees to get vaccinated, CICA will continue to review guidelines from appropriate government agencies and will be working closely with the JW Marriott Tucson Star Pass Resort & Spa to help ensure the safety of attendees at the conference. Complete COVID-19 policies for the Fall Forum can be found on the CICA website, cicaworld.com.

Although the Fall Forum will include educational sessions on a broad range of topics, there will be an increased focus on networking at the event, with sessions being shortened to 45 minutes to allow for additional networking time.

Captive insurance, including the formation and operation of risk retention groups, is a people business. Although the insurance market hardened in 2020, the number of RRG formations did not pick-up as it had in prior hard markets, even as other types of captives saw increased formations.

Jon Harkavy, of counsel at **Risk Services**, wrote in an article in the June 2021 *Risk Retention Reporter* that “given the number of diverse parties which must be coordinated in the forming and licensing of RRGs, the relative dearth of RRGs formed in 2020 is not surprising.”

Risk retention group formations have picked up in 2021, and with the return to in-person conferences, may further increase over the next year or two. Towle noted that earlier 2021 conferences, such as the Western Region Captive Insurance Conference, saw record attendance suggesting that the captive industry is ready to get back to business. “Staying abreast of what’s happening in the overall captive market helps me be a better leader for my RRG. I am looking forward to sharing some of what we are doing at STICO, learning from our presenters, meeting with service providers to help find solutions to the key issues we’re facing and re-connecting in person with captive colleagues at CICA’s Fall Forum,” said STICO Mutual Insurance Company, RRG President Colin Donovan.

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