

The Community Association Specialist: Insurance & Risk Management



by: Robert A. Travis, CIRMS

For decades now whenever community association board members and their fellow community association volunteer leaders have looked for the most qualified community association managers to entrust their Association and its valuable assets with, they have often looked for managers that hold the prestigious Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM) designation or other manager designations awarded by Community Associations Institute (CAI). Over the past few years CAI has recognized the importance of creating designations to identify the community association expertise of other professionals that service community associations, their volunteer leaders, and community managers in highly specialized disciplines.

In the insurance and risk management field CAI understood the importance of identifying and recognizing the most qualified individuals that can partner with community associations when they developed the Community Insurance and Risk Management Specialist (CIRMS). Individuals that have secured their CIRMS designation have demonstrated a high level of competence within their

profession through the qualifying process.

The first item of importance to community association leaders and managers the CIRMS designation identifies is the experience of the designee. Aside from having to provide several references from both community associations and community association industry professionals the CIRMS designee must have five years experience as a practitioner in the community association insurance industry. For this designation a practitioner is defined as an individual primarily compensated to consult, advise, and/or provide insurance services for community associations. In addition to the above the CIRMS designee must also satisfy one of the following:

- Have the current responsibility as an insurance practitioner for at least twenty-five community association insurance programs.
- Demonstrate significant involvement in the provision of insurance and risk management services to community associations.

Knowledge of their practice is another one of the attributes the CIRMS designation exhibits to community association leaders of those with this designation. Those that have the CIRMS designation are active in CAI and similar organizations as national faculty members, speakers and authors on both a national and local basis, member of national and local committees and boards, and attendees of educational opportunities themselves to broaden their knowledge of community associations, insurance and risk management. Many CIRMS designees also carry other designations awarded by various professional insurance institutions.

Currently there are eighty-six CIRMS nationally with the next class to be inducted at CAI's Law Conference this coming January 2012. All CIRMS are bound to a stringent Code of Ethics. For community association leaders to have the ability to identify such talented individuals in this discipline is immensely helpful, and this is why CAI created the CIRMS designation. For insurance and risk management professionals the ability to have your time, experience, knowledge, and talent recognized has no measure.

For more information on the CIRMS designation please visit

www.caionline.org

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