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20

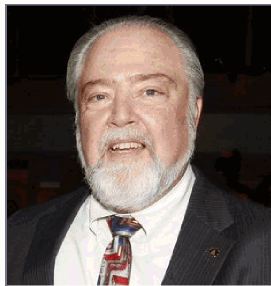
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-Brian Donahue

People of Note in : New Jersey

NJAHU Bestows Richard Wheeler 2011 Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award



BRIELLE, NJ - June 20, 2011 - As the New Jersey Association of Health Underwriter (NJAHU) continues to educate consumers about health insurance options and advocate for the important role of the insurance broker, Richard Wheeler of Point Pleasant has worked tirelessly to advance all aspects of the group's agenda. The NJAHU recognized Wheeler's achievements and ongoing commitment to the profession, naming him the recipient of the 2011 Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award the highest honor given to a NJAHU member.

"I'm totally surprised and overwhelmed to win such a prestigious industry award," said Wheeler, principal of Richard E. Wheeler Insurance Services in Brielle. "What makes it so important to me is that this is an award from my peers."

With 34 years of experience in the industry, Wheeler has served the NJAHU in a variety of capacities, including NJAHU President and Monmouth-Ocean Chapter President. On the national level, he has served as National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) Region I and Region II Retention Chair, earning two national awards in three years.

Wheeler is a Registered Health Underwriter, a Certified Senior Advisor and a Certified Long Term Care Consultant. In 2003 and 2004, he served as an advisor on health care reform efforts, including the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. In addition to his work in the insurance industry, Wheeler has served 16 years as a Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 63 from Brielle. He was also

President of the Wall Township Chamber of Commerce and a Deacon of the First Baptist Church in Manasquan. Wheeler, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, is a graduate of Villanova University.

NJAHU Bestows Sandy Gibson of Union 2011 President's Award



The New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters (NJAHU) has recognized the efforts Sandy Gibson by naming her the recipient of the 2011 NJAHU President's Award, the organization announced today.

As the NJAHU grapples with the implementation of reform laws and the creation of health insurance exchanges, Sandy Gibson has worked tirelessly to increase membership and promote the group's goals as the president of NJAHU's Central Chapter.

The President's Award honors a member of the NJAHU who has shown extreme dedication to the organization. As a two-term president of the Central Chapter, Gibson has shown strong leadership skills and has boosted her chapter's profile in the organization.

During her tenure, the Central Chapter has exceeded its member recruitment goals, revised its by-laws, hosted a number of educational events and supported the community through charitable contributions to the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick.

"It was overwhelming. I was shocked," Gibson said about the moment she learned she had received the award. "I was certainly happy about it. I felt like all the hard work and accomplishments were being recognized."

In addition to receiving the President's Award, Gibson has been elected to the position of vice-president of the NJAHU, effective July 1. Her goals as vice-president are to keep membership in the organization growing and continue to make sure the group uses its voice to promote the importance of the broker in New Jersey.

Gibson, who resides in Union, is the Small Employer Health Retention Manager for AmeriHealth Insurance Company of New Jersey.

Names & Places

June 2011

Edward Tafaro- Mahwah, NJ- Edward A. (Ted) Tafaro, CEO of Exceptional Risk Advisors, an industry leader in high limit life and disability insurance specialty insurance products, has been named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2011 New Jersey Award finalist. The award recognizes business leaders who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.