



News Release

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JAMES PETTIPAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SURPLUS LINE ASSOCIATION

SAN FRANCISCO, California – (February 15, 2006) -- The members of the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) unanimously elected James Pettipas as their Chairman during the SLA Annual meeting. James Pettipas is the Vice-President of ECM Insurance Services Inc., a surplus line brokerage headquartered in San Francisco, California. The SLA Annual Meeting was held January 24, 2006 in San Francisco and January 26, in Beverly Hills, California.



JAMES PETTIPAS

Elected Vice Chairman was Ceil Norton of Burns & Wilcox, Fresno, CA. Elected Secretary-Treasurer was John Edack of Arch Specialty Insurance Agency, Inc., San Francisco, CA. In addition, ten Executive Committee members were elected as follows: Rupert Hall of M.J. Hall & Company, Inc., Chris Brown of Brown & Riding Insurance Brokers, Greg Crouse of Crouse & Associates, Katie Freeman of Katie Freeman Insurance Services, Hank Haldeman of Gerald J. Sullivan & Associates, Inc., Les Ross of Tri-City Brokerage, A division of BISYS Commercial Insurance Services, Inc., Stacey Shurson of IIW Insurance Services of California, Davis Moore of Worldwide Facilities, Inc., Frank Cravens of Cravens, Lefler & McCormick and Warren Stanley of Wholesale Connection Insurance Services.

The SLA is an organization of 1200 surplus line brokers licensed by the State of California to negotiate and place insurance with non-admitted insurers. The SLA serves as the official surplus line advisory organization to the California Department of Insurance under California Insurance Code Sec. 1780.50 et seq. With few exceptions, all California surplus line insurance policies must be filed with the SLA for analysis, regulatory compliance, record keeping, and statistical reporting. In addition, the SLA is responsible for reviewing, analyzing, and evaluating the suitability of non-admitted insurers seeking to become eligible surplus line carriers in the state of California.
