

# Fall 2017 Chapter Newsletter

## I-Day Recap

### CONGRATULATIONS and Welcome to our 2017 New Designees!



We had a great time on Thursday, Oct 12 celebrating the Chapter and all of our New Designees. Our educational sessions started with repeat and fabulous presenter Ulises Castellon, CPCU of Fire Cause Analysis. Next up was CPCU Society Past President Steve McElhiney with a world-view update on Climate Change awareness and intersections with the insurance industry present and future.

The Pacific Northwest Chapter selected State Farm to receive the President's Award for 2017. State Farm has been a star producer of New Designees and supports involvement in both Chapter and high Society levels. Thank you for what you do to celebrate continuing education.

The 2017 Ralph Boden Award was presented to Joe Atwood, CPCU. Joe has served for a number of years as the chair of our I-Day Committee, which is no small job. He has also represented the Chapter within Liberty Mutual as a CPCU Society Champion for many years. Thank you so much for your years of service. We wish you the very best in retirement!

Over the luncheon we listened to an inspiring story from Judy Willman, daughter of Joe Rantz of the 1936 Gold-winning Olympic Crew Team featured in the popular book [Boys in the Boat](#).

Thank you to all the speakers, vendors, coffee sponsors, CPCU Society Leadership Councilmember Jill McCook, and the I-Day Committee. [Visit our photo gallery here.](#)



## Upcoming Luncheons

- **November 2nd** - [Diversity Luncheon & Networking Event](#), Maggiano's Bellevue
- **November 13th** - [State Farm Luncheon](#), Dupont State Farm offices

## Upcoming Events

- **Good Works** - Volunteer with PNW Chapter on October 25th, at Washington [Talking Book & Braille Library](#)
- **Holiday Happy Hour & Fundraiser** - December 7th with [Greater Seattle Insurance Professionals \(GSIP\)](#) at [Elephant & Castle](#) to benefit [FareStart](#)



## 2017 CPCU Annual Meeting

This year has been challenging when it comes to natural disasters and even the CPCU Society is not immune. As Hurricane Irma left destruction in her wake, it was decided by the Society to cancel this year's annual meeting.

If you were registered for the meeting this year, your registration will automatically hold over to the 2018 Annual Meeting in San Diego, October 13-15.

## Support Hurricane Relief Efforts

[DONATION LINK](#)

The Institutes CPCU Society has started a relief fund to help meet the storm-related needs and to support long-term recovery efforts throughout the regions affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The Institutes will match up to \$25,000 in donations to the American Red Cross to assist those in need. Please follow this link to find out more.



### CPCU Society President's Summer Visit

This August, President and Chair of The CPCU Society Leadership Council, [Mike Koscielny](#), visited the Pacific Northwest Chapter for a few connections visits and our 2017 Volunteer and New Designee Recognition Event. With Chapter leadership, Mike visited **State Farm**, **Parker, Smith & Feek**, and **Liberty Mutual**. The Recognition Event was held at Flatstick Pub in Seattle, and featured mini-golf, duffleboard, a taco bar, and many brew and cider taps to choose from.



### Member Spotlight: Catherine Espel-Logan

Member since: 2011  
Employer: State Farm

- 1. Tell me how you first got involved with working towards your CPCU?** *After two years working as a Bilingual Auto Claim Representative, I received support from my leadership to further my education and begin studying the CPCU designation.*
- 2. What did you find most challenging about earning the CPCU designation?** *At the time I began my CPCU, it was still in the essay format. There was a lot of content to review and understand in a high-level of detail for a relatively small number of questions. There weren't many study aids available at the time so I studied the old-fashioned way and read the books cover to cover, taking copious notes.*
- 3. Tell me how you first got involved with working at the Chapter level?** *I've been an active participant in my local chapter since before I even completed my designation, it has always been beneficial to hear experts in our industry and broaden my network.*
- 4. What would you tell someone who is thinking about getting involved at the Chapter level?** *It's a great opportunity to connect with others from across the industry and expand your knowledge in ways that you may not otherwise have the chance too, especially for specialty areas of insurance that your company may not handle directly. It makes you a more well-rounded insurance professional. My favorite activity currently is the quarterly volunteer event, it's a great way to get to know the local community, make a positive impact and meet some great people.*
- 5. What are your hopes for our industry?** *I hope as people have more access to information than ever and technology continues to make tremendous advancements that we find ways to continue to be relevant and help people in new and better ways.*
- 6. Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us.** *My husband (who is also a CPCU) and I met rock climbing in Central Illinois.*





## What's Included in my Chapter Dues??

It's renewal season for Society Dues. Part of your invoice automatically includes the portion dedicated to your Chapter. If you're part of our Chapter, here are just a few things included as a part of your benefits:

- 8 luncheons with educational sessions
- Discounted admission to our annual Spring Seminar
- Pizza and beer after each Good Works event
- Holiday Happy Hour invitation
- ...and more

## Mentor Program - **NEW!**

Participation in the CPCU Society Mentorship Program is a great way to enhance the value of your CPCU Society membership. Our program provides two avenues of participation:

- Find a mentor for yourself.
- Become a mentor for others.
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Whether you have expertise to offer or are looking to glean expertise from others, personal and career development occur on both sides of this relationship.

## Reminder: CE reporting for CPCU

CPCU Society has added a Continuing Education reporting requirement. This decision was formalized in the past year by CPCU Society Leadership with support of The Institutes as an effort to reinforce the high educational requirements and continued learning that the acquisition of the CPCU designation required.

For more information, feel free to visit these two resources ([CE for CPCUs](#) and [CE for CPCU What Counts](#)) or reach out to [PNW Chapter CPCU Past President Alan Seybold](#).

## Open to all CPCU Society members!

Whether you've previously participated in formal mentorship or not, we encourage all of you to consider participation. We believe all CPCU Society members bring great value to our industry, and there is someone out there who will benefit from your experience.

[Learn more..](#)

