Welcome to the Bluegrass state! We are so happy to welcome you to Louisville for the 2014 Summer Meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Whether regulatory staff, company official, state legislator or other member of the insurance industry, we all face a rapidly changing landscape in our states, as well as on the national and international levels. The NAIC meetings give us an opportunity to debate important issues but also to gain insight and knowledge from others. It is my hope that you will leave Louisville with a renewed enthusiasm for the work we do and a greater appreciation for the importance of the decisions we make.

I hope you will be able to explore Louisville and take advantage of at least some of the sights and sounds of Kentucky’s largest city. Best known as the home of the Kentucky Derby, Louisville offers world-class museums, the Urban Bourbon Trail, unique shopping and dining opportunities, river cruises and more. If you have time, consider a trip to nearby Fourth Street Live!, designated as a one-stop destination for retail, dining and entertainment.

Enjoy your time in Kentucky! I look forward to working with you as we face the challenges to come.

Sincerely,
Sharon P. Clark, Kentucky Insurance Commissioner
ÜBER TURNOUT AT CIPR EVENT

On Saturday, the CIPR hosted a panel on commercial ridesharing and car sharing issues. More than 320 people attended the event, which lasted two hours and was moderated by California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones.

As ridesharing and car sharing become more popular, state insurance regulators, industry representatives and other interested parties have grown increasingly interested in the potential impact of these services on the industry and consumers. During the event, representatives for transportation network company Uber and car sharing company RelayRides addressed concerns about potential gaps in insurance coverage and consumer protection. Panelists also discussed potential changes in state legislation and action being taken by the industry to ensure that policyholders are adequately protected when using these new, innovative services.

The panel consisted of: Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner Joseph Murphy; Colorado Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar; Sonja Larkin-Thorne, NAIC Consumer Representative; Alex Benn, Chief Operating Officer of RelayRides; Gus Fuldner, Head of Risk Management for Uber Technologies; John Clarke, Senior VP of Marketing for James River Insurance Company; Robert Passmore, Senior Director of Personal Lines Policy for PCI; and Phillip Jagiela, Executive Director of the National Limousine Association.

NAIC KENTUCKY CAKE WALK

Summer National Meeting attendees are being challenged to walk—or run—for the roses. This twist on the Kentucky Derby asks meeting attendees to count their steps by wearing a pedometer.

“We often joke that other people should walk a mile in our shoes as insurance regulators,” said Sharon Clark, NAIC Secretary Treasurer and Kentucky Insurance Commissioner. “It’s easy to feel the burn of all the exercise we get at an NAIC meeting. I thought it would be fun to see just how many steps we take, so I asked Humana to partner with us monitor our mileage.”

All meeting attendees are invited to participate in the NAIC Walking Challenge. To get a pedometer, stop by the sign up table on the first floor of the Kentucky International Convention Center. Winners of the challenge will be announced on Monday.
The NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Committee voted to accredit the Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Rhode Island departments. Accredited departments undergo a comprehensive, independent review every five years to ensure they continue to meet baseline financial solvency oversight standards. Accreditation standards require state insurance departments to have adequate statutory and administrative authority to regulate an insurer’s corporate and financial affairs, as well as the necessary resources to carry out that authority.

Karen Weldin Stewart (front-center), Delaware Insurance Commissioner, and Department Accreditation Staff

Louisiana Insurance Department Accreditation Staff

Joseph G. Murphy (right), Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner, and Department Accreditation Staff

Joe Torti (third from left), Rhode Island Insurance Superintendent, and Department Accreditation Staff
FORUM ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL STANDARDS

On Friday, nearly 200 people attended the International Capital Standards Forum. The forum was an opportunity to hear views, comments and questions from state regulators, federal colleagues, state legislators, consumer representatives and the industry related to the development of a global capital standard. The discussion focused on the goals, benefits, costs and consequences of an international capital standard that would be appropriate for the U.S. market and regulatory approach.

OPENING SESSION

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As we all know, federal policy impacts the work we do protecting insurance consumers, but there continues to be a lack of full understanding in Washington, D.C. about how state-based insurance regulation has served the American people. We are working to shrink that knowledge gap with our newly launched Protecting the Future program.

This new outreach effort targets policymakers, as well as federal and international agencies to reinforce the strength and stability of our insurance marketplace. NAIC officers, along with our CEO, Senator Ben Nelson, will be encouraging more dialogue in social media and through special events.

We all know our commitment to insurance regulation isn’t limited to our states and territories, or even to our national borders. Each day, we are becoming more engaged internationally – which is critical as the global insurance market becomes even more interconnected.

Since we last met, we have made progress on a number of fronts, including the EU-U.S. Dialogue Project. Communication with the European Union and the rest of the international community is crucial to helping others understand the benefits of our state-based system.

That brings us to our fifth major priority for 2014—Group Supervision. At the 2013 Fall National Meeting, the NAIC committed to review the Model Insurance Holding Company Act and Regulation adopted in 2010. At our Spring National Meeting this year, we began the process of considering changes to these models in order to address the continued evolution of group supervision.