

RSA members have a valuable resource in IALDA

Since the mid-1990s, the International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association (IALDA) has worked hand in hand with the roller skating industry to keep skating center owners and operators, as well as their patrons safe. The organization formed out of an informal alliance of attorneys and a Six Flags corporate safety manager who decided to formalize the organization under the IALDA name, according to IALDA Board Member Michael Amaro. The newly formed non-profit group invited attorneys, safety managers, in-house management and risk managers from various amusement and recreational companies to join the association and actively participate in the sharing of information pertinent to the industry.

IALDA has made huge contributions to the roller skating industry. One of the biggest being the creation of risk management guidelines for skating centers. "In the '80s, there was a one-page sheet that was basically rules that applied to operators of roller skating facilities, but they weren't really specific to safety and risk management programs and how they relate to this culture safety and roller skating rinks," Amaro stated. "One of the things that we did was create a set of comprehensive risk management guidelines that roller skating facilities around the country could review and implement in their facilities to make them better, safer operators."

Next, IALDA created a presentation and submitted it to several insurance companies. By doing this, the organization was able to obtain an A-plus-rated insurance company (at that time it was AIG), to underwrite insurance for roller



RSB Photo/Wendy Browne

At its seminar during the RSA Convention and Trade Show, International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association (IALDA) members discussed potential legal headaches that could arise for roller skating center operators.

skating centers across the country, Amaro shared.

Currently, the organization conducts seminars across the country at conventions like the RSA Convention and Trade Show. This year's seminar focused on some of the legal headaches roller skating center operators could face and how to solve them. In addition, IALDA hosted a breakfast for RSA convention attendees to mingle among IALDA attorneys and have their questions answered.

Not only did the IALDA organization give a seminar and host a breakfast, but it also took the opportunity to recognize a few of its members. This year at the convention and trade show the organization presented a new award remembering one of its own, Edmund Young. IALDA created the Edmund Young Special Recognition Award to honor those individuals who have made special contributions to advancing risk management in the roller skating industry. The organization presented this honor to Kurt Anselmi and Rock Allman.

For more than two decades, Anselmi has been involved in IALDA roller skating seminars. He is a founding member of IALDA and authored the first assumption of risk statute signed into law.

Allman has been chair of the RSA Risk Management Committee and is primarily responsible for raising awareness of the importance of risk management and the risk management guidelines in the industry.

Amaro stressed the volunteered time involved in creating tools for the roller skating industry. "We've spent exhaustive hours preparing the risk management guidelines, giving seminars and providing risk management tools to roller skating centers around the country and we do that free of charge," Amaro explains. He encourages RSA members to become familiar with the content of the risk management guidelines, adopt them in their facilities and develop a relationship with an IALDA attorney in their area.

For more information about IALDA, visit www.ialda.org.