

## History of LAAHU

The movement to organize local Accident and Health Managers Clubs (A&H) started in Cleveland in 1908.

The first meeting to create a nationwide organization took place on October 10, 1929, just two weeks before the great stock market crash.

Eight months later, the National Association of Accident and Health Managers held its charter convention on June 5-6, 1930 in Chicago. Delegates from the Los Angeles A&H Managers Club were among delegates from Chicago, Seattle and Detroit. The formation of what is today called the National Association of Health Underwriters was created from the meeting in Chicago.

William E. Leppy, Massachusetts Indemnity, served as president of the Los Angeles A&H Managers Club and president of the California Association of A&H Underwriters. Mr. Leppy was a key California delegate to the organizing meeting. It would be rational to believe that Mr. Leppy formed the Los Angeles Club prior to 1929, but we can't be positive. It would therefore be reasonable to call October 10, 1929 as the birth date of LAAHU.

At the June, 1931 meeting, Mr. Leppy was elected second-vice president of the national association who prevailed on Governor James Rolph, Jr. of California to proclaim Accident and Health Week, the first time in history that a state governor had made such a proclamation. Leppy reported that during that special week, 28 members of the Los Angeles Club had produced \$40,000 in premium. The concept caught on with other states and in 1938, Harold R. Gordon, one of the national association's best friends, served as chairman of the first National A&H week.

Harold R. Gordon chaired the first Accident and Health Conference in Chicago (1930); a visionary whose memory is perpetuated by the presentation of the annual Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award by the National Association of Health Underwriters]. Mr. Leppy was the third recipient of the Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award in 1951.

To date, California has the distinction of producing three recipients of the Harold R. Gordon.

- 1951 - William E. Leppy
- 1985 - W. Harold Peterson, RHU
- 2003 - Alan Katz, RHU

Unfortunately LAAHU historical information is lost until 1958.

Francis Sandidge, Paul Revere Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles was elected president of the Los Angeles Association of Accident and Health Underwriters for the coming year of 1958. She was the first women to hold this office in Los Angeles. She

was also the first woman in the State of California to be a member of the Accident and Health Managers Club.

LAAHU Presidents:

- Kenneth Stokes - Date unknown, Loyal Protective Life NAHU President 1960
- Richard Dutweiler - 1964, National Casualty - NAHU President 1966
- W. Harold Petersen - 1969
- Pete Napoleon - 1970
- Harry Anderson - 1971

In 1972, LAAHU went into hibernation and stayed dormant until 1979.

LAAHU has steadily grown since 1979 both in number of members as well as in stature. New committees have been added over the years, new benefits to members and new opportunities for agents to raise their professionalism.