

## President's Forum



**Matt Burke, CPCU  
Chapter President**

## Cryptic Message

Now is the time to buy cryptocurrency, right? Isn't it "Buy high, sell low," or is it "Buy low, sell lower"?

The recent unraveling of cryptocurrency exchange FTX has been a fascinating read over the last week. Once valued at more than \$30 billion, it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Nov. 11. Over a 10-day period, a seemingly promising, well-known and marketed institution has become a dark spot for the financial industry.

It will be interesting to see the ramifications and what, if anything, will come of the public figures (celebrities and athletes) who promoted the exchange. From commercials during the Super Bowl to sponsoring Major League Baseball and other major organizations, FTX was almost everywhere.

It's a wonderful reminder to appreciate a steady (reliable) pace, but also do your due diligence as you navigate your financial journey.

Happy holidays to you and your families. I have a lot to be thankful for this year, including a growing, happy and healthy family. I'm also grateful for our chapter, from our volunteers who make everything possible to our members who attend meetings and support it.

Thank you!



## Your 2022 Chapter Board

**President:**  
Matt Burke, CPCU

**Treasurer:**  
Tricia Thelen, CPCU

**Directors:**  
Candace Trumble, CPCU

**Immediate Past President:**  
John Schmidt, CPCU

**Vice President:**  
Mike Giancotti, CPCU

**Secretary:**  
Samantha Cheadle, CPCU

Libby Fox, CPCU

Nicole Scott, CPCU

## Meetings

### November Speaker Spotlight

#### Brett Clausen, President-Elect, CPCU Society Leadership Council



Brett will speak to us as we honor our new designees. The CPCU Society Leadership Council serves over 15,000 members globally.

Brett is the vice president of government relations & process improvement at FBL Financial Group, Inc., a financial services holding company headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa. Its primary operating subsidiary, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, underwrites and markets a broad range of life insurance and annuities to individuals and businesses.

Brett joined FBL in 1990 and has held various leadership positions in claims, operations and underwriting. He currently coordinates the organization's government relations function, leads the organization's process improvement efforts, and provides expertise to the leadership development area.

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Before joining the CPCU Leadership Council as secretary/treasurer in 2021, Brett served as managing governor and governor of the Mountain States Region, chair of the Professional Experience Resource Group, and chapter president of the Arizona Chapter.

Brett holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in insurance management through Boston University. In addition to earning his CPCU, Brett holds the CIC, AIC, AIS, API, ARe, ARC and AU designations.

#### November Meeting Information

**Date:** Tuesday, Nov. 29 **Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** LCC West, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing, 48917 & Zoom

#### Menu:

Grilled chicken sandwich, BBQ beef sandwich, or a vegetarian option. All options will include pasta salad and chips.

#### Call-In Information:

- **Zoom Meeting Link:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87230843806?pwd=MnhwRjcrVWpmUFhUTXJLR2tJRFN6QT09>
- **Meeting ID:** 872 3084 3806
- **Passcode:** 924454

**Contact:** Email Mike Giancotti at [giancotti.mike@aoins.com](mailto:giancotti.mike@aoins.com)

Connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn at Mid-Michigan CPCU Society



#### Mid-Michigan Chapter CPCU Newsletter

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The submission  
deadline for the  
December newsletter is  
**Dec. 5**

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If you know of promotions  
or other noteworthy ac-  
complishments involving  
CPCUs, please send them  
to the editor using any of  
contact methods listed.

#### Future CPCU Annual Meeting Sites

Oct. 5-7, 2023: Washington,  
D.C.

#### Future Chapter Meeting Dates

December: Dec. 21,  
Crowne Plaza

## Chapter News

### December Good Works Voting

We've narrowed our list of local Good Works recipients down to a select few. While different in their mission, their work continues to strengthen and drive our local communities. We hope to highlight each organization and specifically recognize one at our December luncheon.

Look for a Constant Contact communication where you can vote for who you think is most deserving of additional consideration and support. Thank you to Lacey Payne (Auto-Owners Insurance) for chairing the event.

### All Industry Day (I-Day) a Success

Thank you to Kate Phillips (Michigan Millers), Mike Mills (Auto-Owners Insurance) and Luke Mardigian (Farm Bureau Insurance) for volunteering their time and sharing their experience in the industry Oct. 27 at LCC West. Attendees included chapter members and risk management students from Olivet College. Special thanks to Mike Giacotti for facilitating the event.

Do you have topic or speaker suggestions for next year's industry day or monthly luncheons? Let us know and we'll do our best to reach out!



Kate Phillips



Mike Mills



Luke Mardigian

### New Designees

John Ahoe, Nationwide

Austin Bekkering,  
Auto-Owners

Jordan Boyd, Auto-Owners

Hannah Brown, Auto-  
Owners

Paul Case, Auto-Owners

Zoe Caltrider, Auto-  
Owners

Craig Chapman, Liberty  
Mutual

Jennifer Cook, Auto-  
Owners

Erin Cooper, Farm Bureau

Allison Covello, Farm  
Bureau

Britt DeRoos, Auto-  
Owners

Kara Elenbaas, Auto-  
Owners

Beth Goodman, Accident  
Fund

Dustin Haney, Farm  
Bureau

Anthony Hansen, Auto-  
Owners

Ryan Holbrook, Accident  
Fund

Paul Kennedy, Auto-  
Owners

Ashley Kerr, Auto-Owners

Nathan Kramer, Auto-  
Owners

Jason Kulpa, Auto-Owners

David Plantinga,  
Nationwide

Keri Rizzo, American  
Agricultural Insurance  
Company

Kenneth Shay, Auto-  
Owners

Rachel Titus, Auto-Owners

Krista Young, Auto-  
Owners

## Chapter News Cont.

### Current Open Committee Positions for 2023

By *Matt Burke, Michigan Millers Insurance, Chapter president*

From volunteering for our annual golf outing to chairing our annual I-Day event, the opportunity to serve has proved invaluable. I appreciate the experience and relationships made.

We'd appreciate your help as we continue to grow and strive to be one of the top chapters nationally. If you or someone you know is interested in leading, please reach out to any board member. The following list shows the current open committee positions for 2023:

#### **Membership Chair**

Maintain a current list of paid chapter members, monitor and update the membership roster as needed, and promote new chapter membership.

#### **Industry Day (I-Day) Chair**

Coordinate annual I-Day event with industry-related speakers and topics.

#### **New Designee Chair**

Responsible for welcoming new members to help them gain a better understanding of what the Mid-Michigan CPCU Chapter has to offer. This chair organizes the local conferment ceremony at one of our luncheon meetings to recognize the new designees' outstanding achievement.

#### **Golf Outing Coordinator**

Responsible for planning the annual golf outing for chapter members and other industry-related professionals.

### Updated Membership and Cost for 2023

As of October we have 306 active members for calendar year 2022. We have 25 new designees for 2022 and three already for 2023. The educational year begins and ends June 15.

Did you know our chapter is no longer exclusive to professionals who hold their CPCU designation? Spread the word! No matter where one may be in their risk management and insurance journey, there's a place for them here.

**CPCU Professional Member:** For those who have earned the CPCU designation.

**Pathways Member:** For any risk management or insurance professional who has not earned the CPCU designation (includes those in the process of completing courses).

**Student Member:** For full-time undergraduate students working toward or interested in risk management and insurance careers, and who have not yet been employed in the industry.

**Academic Member:** For full-time college or university faculty members in a risk management, insurance or related program who have not earned the CPCU designation.

**Post-Career Member:** For retired risk management and insurance professionals who are no longer in practice but want to stay in touch with the industry.

\*\*More information, including exclusive benefits for each membership type, can be found at [cpcusociety.org](http://cpcusociety.org), Membership, and Membership Type and Benefits.\*\*

After careful review and consideration, we have voted to increase our chapter dues from \$27.50 to \$35 for the 2023 calendar year. If you have not received your dues invoice for 2023, you should soon. The change is in response to the recent increase in cost for food and room rental for our monthly luncheons. We continue to look at and consider options to serve members in an effective and efficient manner.