The November 11, 2014 General Meeting for the Central Missouri CPCU Society Chapter was called to order at noon at Shelter Insurance with Chapter President Jon Erickson presiding.

Jon welcomed everyone to this Veterans Day meeting. He asked all veterans to stand and be recognized for their service. Ralph Gifford was presented with a pin from the Wounded Warriors Project in recognition of his service.

Jon also welcomed Fred Travis, Director, Risk Management and Insurance Program at the University of Missouri who will be our December speaker.

**Company Spotlight** – Gary Thompson, President and CEO of Columbia Insurance Group, who served as Chapter President in 1998-1999, spoke of education and the workforce. He said that sharing has moved from what books you have read to what classes you have taken. He provided an update on Columbia Insurance Group which has 600 independent representatives with a focus predominately on commercial lines. They have 300 employees around the country and are in their 141st year. They have been evolving over last three years to their goal of becoming the most valuable commercial insurer in the U.S. They write In 13 states and are serviced by five full service branch offices. Mr. Thompson spoke of talent drain in the industry and that the relationship with the MU Risk Management and Insurance Program is very important. As he concluded, he recognized Columbia Insurance employees in attendance and thanked them for their contributions.

**Program -** Lisa Gordon, Program Committee Co-chair, introduced her good friend Audrey Mack, Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans History Project (MVHP). Audrey shared information about how the MVHP interviews and records the stories of veterans from any branch and any years of service. They partner with several organizations to meet their mission. The goals of the MVHP are to train volunteers, organize community based groups to interview veterans and provide interview recordings to veterans free-of-charge.

In 2000 Congress passed legislation authorizing the Library of Congress to receive content from the Veterans History Project. In 2010, funding was cut and in 2011 key Missouri Legislators created funding for volunteers to create a Missouri specific version. In 2013 the MVHP interviewed their 500th veteran. The Missouri State Historical Society houses the recordings and now reports there are over 700 veterans who have recorded their story. There are projects in other states but none to the organization of the MVHP. The MVHP is one of the busiest donor institutions to the Library of Congress.

The MVHP has many community groups throughout the state. Audrey share that training is of the upmost importance for volunteers and that processes must be followed to have the interviews archived at the Library of Congress. They want to increase the number of veterans interviewed, especially WWII and Korea. VHP started because of the realization of the numerous WWI veterans who pass away without having their story told. She shared that the Army is largest branch with WWII being the most prevalent. MVHP’s Corporate Headquarters is located in Columbia MO. The interviews are free of charge to the veteran who also receives a copy in the mail.

MVHP wants to continually upgrade to provide the highest professional quality recordings. She shared a Public Service Announcement regarding the Missouri Veterans History Project soliciting involvement. She encouraged us to support the project by Donations, Volunteering and Interviewing.

During Q&A, she emotionally told a touching story of a WWII vet’s interview of his experiences in fighting the war. She said they do not edit their interviews and told a funny story about vet who was married in France and later married in the U.S. without telling his U.S. wife. She also told about a vet indicated that he’d done nothing special in the war but shared that he was a driver for General Patton.

The stories are now available to scholars, genealogists etc. The interview serves to capture the Veteran’s entire life story through questions about their life outside the military too. At <http://www.mvhp.net/> snippets of veteran’s interviews can be viewed. The MVHP does not record Honor Flight interviews but do get many contacts from those participants. The interviews have to be a minimum of 30 minutes to be accepted in the Library of Congress and of good quality. Most interviews are held in retirement homes, nursing homes and facilities with meeting rooms and only under rare circumstances in a veteran’s homes.

President Erickson thanked Audrey for her moving and worthwhile presentation and announced that an honorarium will be presented to the Project.

**Committee Reports**

**Education** – Bill and Andrea recognized CPD qualifiers and presented those in attendance with tumblers. Goal was to increase the number and which was accomplished. Recognized was Juanita Christy, Tim Gettinger, Sandy Henderson, Greg Lockard, Emily Short, Ryan Wiemholt, and Matt Bronson. Approximately 15-20 more CPCUs have qualified but have yet to attend a meeting to obtain their tumbler.

**2015 Committee List** - Lori showed everyone the list and current committee responsibilities. She shared that the Young Driver Program was left off the list and Russ Baker has agreed to chair. Please let Lori know if you want to volunteer for a 2015 Committee.

**Website** – Matt Bronson announced another scavenger hunt to increase web traffic and help us remain a top chapter in website traffic. There are five Waldo’s to be located on the website. To submit your answer, click on *Contact Us* and fill out the give the specific locations on the website. Prizes are for 1st, a tumbler and $25 gift card. All other submissions will be placed in a raffle for a gift card. Matt helped everyone out by showing us where the first one is located.

**Nominating Committee** – Monica Salmons thanked the Nominating Committee of Sandy Henderson and Ben Galloway. She announced the slate of officers and shared that everyone will receive an electronic ballot to register their vote. The officer slate is as follows: President – Lori Meyer; Vice President – Monica Richey Pfeiffer; Secretary – Shawn Knauts; Treasurer – Joe Jackson; Board Member at Large – Tami Gessling; Board Member at Large – Scott Mackey; and Immediate Past President – Jon Erickson.

Jon asked for anyone who is interested in performing a financial audit of our Chapter’s books for the year to please contact him.

The attendance prize for the tumbler was awarded to Tim Gettinger. The gift card was awarded to Todd Weyler. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM. The final meeting for 2014 will be at MEM on December 9 and feature Fred Travis.