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MSTA brings Bukaty on board

The Missouri State Teachers Association has formed a relationship with Bukaty Companies in order to offer school districts a variety of insurance and financial products, from health coverage to flexible-spending plans to retirement planning. MSTAs Executive Director Kent King says that the association's goal is to ensure that school districts have access to the best insurance products and to superior service.

Bukaty Companies works with school districts to offer comprehensive employee benefit and insurance programs. Company president Mike Bukaty says his business goes beyond most insurance brokerages and is a "full full-service broker."

In other words, after a school district purchases insurance through Bukaty Companies — whether it is health, retirement planning or property/casualty — the insurance broker is a one-stop shop for assistance with claims and serves as an advocate for the district when dealing with insurance carriers.

"We earn our customers on a daily basis," Mike Bukaty says. "We never take the relationship for granted."

It was that commitment to service that sealed the deal with MSTAs. MSTAs Deputy Executive Director Bruce Moe says that Bukaty Companies fits the criteria that the association requires.

"We were looking for a company with an excellent reputation for service," Moe says, "a company that was growing, a company that knew a lot about employee benefits and a company that had experience with school districts. And as we were evaluating, Bukaty came to the top."

Bukaty Companies is growing by leaps and bounds. It began in suburban Kansas City, Kan., in 1991 with a staff of three and has expanded to a full-service broker with more than 80 employees and 1,200 company clients.

In coming months and years, Bukaty Companies will be presenting its portfolio of insurance offerings to school districts around the state. Mike Bukaty is confident that districts will like what they see.

"We evaluate the market in its entirety to make sure no stone is left unturned when it comes to the best product available at the most competitive price," he says.

MSTAs current relationship with Bukaty Companies is focused on employee benefits through school districts, Moe says. The company will work with districts around the state using its own agents in addition to local independent agents.

"The creative element about our agreement with MSTAs," Mike Bukaty says, "is it allows districts to continue working with local agents should they choose."

When it comes to the bottom line, insurance is about comfort, security and protection.

"We understand that employee benefits are really important to our members," Moe says. "Benefits, retirement and pay are the three legs of workers' security. One area where we can influence the financial security of members is with their employee benefits."