

Wisconsin Association of Workers Compensation Attorneys (WAWCA)

Board of Directors Telephone Conference Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 11, 2008

Call to Order. The WAWCA Board of Directors Meeting by telephone conference was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Cathy Lake, President.

Roll Call. Present were, Cathy Lake, William Wulf, John Griner, Charles Hanson, Cynthia Thurston, John Edmondson, Patricia Sandoz, Thomas Siedow, Thomas Horvath, Charles Soule, Mark McGillis, and Thomas Niemiec.

1. Certificates of Readiness. Approximately 40 minutes was spent discussing the Certificate of Readiness process instituted by the Division. Cathy Lake advised that the Division was now beginning to issue Orders of Dismissal for failure to comply with COR. Discussion was had regarding the infirmities of the process. A committee consisting of Charles Hanson, Thomas Siedow, and Thomas Niemiec was formed to immediately advise the Division that WAWCA disapproved of the dismissal of Applications for Hearing solely based upon the fact that a Certificate of Readiness had not been filed. The board unanimously voted that WAWCA's position is that Applications for Hearing should not be dismissed solely on the basis that a COR is not on file.

2. Policies and Procedures. John Edmondson advised that he and Bill Sachse would present at the WAWCA Summer Seminar on a topic entitled "A Time for a Change – A Role for WAWCA in Developing Policies and Procedures at the Division." Mr. Edmondson moved that a Policies and Procedures Committee be developed. The motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Edmondson volunteered to chair that committee and was so appointed by President Lake.

3. Treasurer's Report. John Griner reported that WAWCA has approximately \$10,000.00 in its account.

Question was raised as to whether or not the IRS tax form 990 (tax report for a 501(c)(3) corporation) had been filed for this year. Treasurer Griner, however, had to leave the meeting before that issue was raised and one of the remaining officers will contact Mr. Griner to ascertain the status of that matter.

4. Membership Committee. Motion was made and approved for the development of a Standing Membership Committee. Thomas Niemiec volunteered and is now the chairman of that committee. Mr. Niemiec will see that 30-day notice of the annual meeting will be given to the membership. Some further discussion was had regarding the desirability of having membership dues statements issued/received separately from our seminar process.

Discussion was had regarding revision of the Membership List. John Griner advised that the list at this point is relatively short, due to the fact that most members only pay their dues upon making payment to attend one of WAWCA's seminars. Mr. Griner will share the Membership List with Mr. Niemiec, and they will work together to do whatever needs to be done on such a list.

5. Summer Seminar. Discussion was had regarding the appropriate fee to charge for the summer seminar. The cost of last year's seminar was \$105.00 for members. It was suggested that it may be appropriate to raise the fee to \$120.00 for members this year to help ensure that the Association breaks even. It was decided to leave that decision to the Seminar Committee. The seminar will again be held at the Marriott Madison West in Middleton.

A decision was made to invite seminar speakers to a speaker's dinner/board dinner (with a board meeting to be held the night before the seminar, following dinner).

6. Website. Phil Lehner our long-time (and sole) Webmaster seeks to retire from this position. Mary Lynn Endter has offered to assume the work associated with this position if she is able to get some training and assistance from Phil.

A committee was formed consisting of Thomas Niemiec, Thomas Siedow, Mark McGillis, and Cynthia Thurston to address the issue of posting advertisements on our website. WAWCA had earlier this year received contact from Mary Jo Schiavoni and James Sturm regarding that topic. The committee will make investigation as to how to best approach that issue and report back to the board.

7. Officers. Discussion was had noting that both Secretary, Barry Stern, and Treasurer, John Griner, would reach the end of their multiple terms of office at the end of this year, and that new individuals need to be found to take over the responsibilities of those positions. Charles Hanson recommended that a search by officers or board members be made to identify and locate individuals who may have an interest in assuming those positions.

8. Adjournment. At 11:00 a.m., when conference host, John Griner, had to leave, his leaving caused the entire teleconference to disconnect. Some, but not all, of the members previously in attendance were able to reconnect and resume the remainder of the meeting with final adjournment occurring at approximately 11:30 a.m.

[Note: Secretary Barry Stern did not participate in the April 11, 2008 telephone meeting. These minutes were prepared by John Edmondson.]