

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS
(WAWCA)

BOARD MEETING OF JULY 29, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Wulf at Delaney's Restaurant in Madison, Wisconsin. Board members present included John Edmondson, Tom Siedow, John Jokela, Jennifer Edmondson, Scott French, Tom Horvath, Charles Hanson, Mark Parman, Cathy Lake, Mary Lynn Endter, Trish Sandoz, Ted Franti, Chuck Soule, and Tom Niemiec. Non-Board members present included Charles Domer, Mark Siefert, and Rich Davis.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to adopt the minutes of the June 12, 2009 phone conference meeting of the Board.

Mark Parman gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion made, seconded, and passed to receive the Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$30,945.92.

John Jokela reported on continuing education. A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the Fall seminar. Based on input received by the Board and the Board's general discussion, it was decided that a seminar including MSA issues would be appreciated by our membership. The discussion focused on location and the possibility of holding it in Madison as many people were reluctant to travel for a half-day seminar. It was suggested that we consider two half-day seminars and possibly videoing them to be replayed elsewhere in the State for convenience of members. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for the Association to provide a CMS Seminar sometime before April 1, 2010 and to explore the option of the use of video of such seminar so that members can participate at more than one location.

Tom Horvath reported with regard to communications. He reported that the annual summer seminar had been publicized to the general public and to the membership by e-mail. He reported that three plaques of appreciation would be given at the annual meeting, namely to Cathy Lake for her work as President, John Griner for his work as Treasurer, and Barry Stern for his work as Secretary.

Rich Davis reported on interest in developing a Young Lawyer's Division of the Wisconsin Association of Worker's Compensation Attorneys. It was agreed that this would be brought to the attention of the general membership at the annual meeting and that if enough interest was shown, work would begin to develop a Young Lawyer's Committee that would perhaps offer a continuing legal education seminar on a topic especially interested to young lawyers in worker's compensation practice.

John Edmondson reported on the need for a Mission Statement. This will be taken up at a further board meeting.

There was considerable discussion with regard to the Association's status. WAWCA has been approved for 501(3)(c) tax status. There was discussion with regard to what election the Board should take so as to best preserve the Board and the Association's flexibility to advocate for issues important to the worker's compensation bar. There was a lengthy discussion of Section 501(h). There was a motion made and seconded for the Board to election 501(h) status, but that motion was tabled pending an opinion with the Association's attorney, Brian Anderson, with regard to reporting requirements. This will be taken up again by the Board at it's next regularly-scheduled meeting.

Under new business, Bill Wulf reported on a proposal to modify Section 102.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes concerning third party recovery. The issue was brought up as a matter of discussion and not for any action at this time. Board members were encouraged to consider ways that third party recovery issues could be better handled.

Bill Wulf also reported on a prescription card program to be used for medication. Apparently, the cards allow for discounted prices and they do not cost anything. Materials concerning their prescription card program were submitted to the Board for information. If the cards are used, one has to use a participating pharmacy. The matter was referred to the Communication Committee to discuss putting this information on our website.

Mark Siefert reported that Section 146.83 was changed as a result of a new State budget bill having to do with the cost of healthcare records and how this would affect Section 102.13 for the worker's compensation statutes. This was brought up for information only and more work needs to be done to better understand the potential implications of the possible conflict.

There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hanson,
Secretary