

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS
(WAWCA)

PHONE CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on September 25, 2009 by President Bill Wulf. Board members present included Tom Horvath, John Edmondson, John Jokela, Trish Sandoz, Chuck Soule, Jennifer Edmondson, Scott French, Ted Franti, Mark Parman and Chuck Hanson. Non-board members present, Attorney Rich Davis.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the board minutes of July 29, 2009 and the annual meeting minutes of July 30, 2009.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to receive the Treasurer's Report. We currently have \$16,896.54 as a balance of which \$7,800.00 is the profit we made on our recent summer seminar. Bill Wulf reported that he has heard from Marquette that they have been overpaid on the Scholarship Fund and they are planning to send a check for \$1,500.00 back to our Association.

John Jokela reported for the Continuing Education Committee that they are proceeding with plans for a half-day seminar on Medicare Set-Aside issues. Because spring break is often in March, he recommended that the Committee have latitude to set up the seminar in the month of April. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the half-day seminar can occur at the committee's discretion on or before May 1, 2010.

Tom Horvath reported for the Communications Committee with regard to the discount drug card. He reported that he had attempted to contact the company, but there was no individual he could reach. He did discuss this with some local pharmacies were not familiar with this particular card, but were willing to process purchases using the card. He reported that in looking into some of the comments of people concerning the card, that it doesn't look like the savings were so great and wasn't sure if this is something we would want on our website, especially when they are not paying for use of the site. Tom Wolfe reported that IWP is another card service that provides another similar card service and they had been a sponsor of our seminar. Tom Horvath will follow up with IWP to see if they might want to consider being a paid sponsor on our website.

Rich Davis reported on the work with regard to a Young Lawyers Committee. He stated there had been a good sign up of 26 people at our summer conference expressing interest and he believes even more are interested.

Bill Wulf reported that in addition to new officers whose terms will begin January 1, 2010: John Edmondson - President; Tom Niemiec - President-Elect - 2010; Mark Parman - Treasurer; and Chuck Hanson - Secretary, there were three board members that were elected; namely, Melissa Kirschner, Chuck Soule, and Dennis Wicht.

John Edmondson reported with regard to the work being done on a proposed Mission Statement and recommended that discussion be deferred to our next meeting. John will be

circulating his draft language again and all members of the Board are encouraged to make any suggestions they wish to the language.

There was general discussion on whether we should take the 501(h) election as a Board. The point was made that taking the selection doesn't require us to take a position on any particular legal matter, it simply protects us if we decide to at some point in the future. It was also suggested that the Board should develop a policy with regard to what type of voting requirement would have to be made before an item could be passed by the Board as an official position of WAWCA advocating the position on worker's compensation law. Bill Wulf appointed an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Bill Wulf, John Edmondson, Chuck Hanson, and Tom Niemiec to make recommendations to the Board at our next meeting.

John Edmondson reported that there had been an expression of interest from Joseph Walcenbach to have a column or information update tab on our website. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have such an information tab on our website that would include updates on the law, including LIRC opinions. There was also general discussion about the website and the fact that it needs some updating. It was agreed that this would be a matter to be reviewed by the Communications Committee who was primarily charged with updating and monitoring our website. The Communications Committee will look into this and make recommendations to the Board at our next meeting.

There was discussion with regard to amending the By-Laws to establish as a standing committee, the Young Lawyers Committee in light of the work done by Rich Davis. After full discussion, there was a motion made, seconded, and passed to adopt the first alternative proposed which will limit the membership of this committee to lawyers who have ten years or less experience in the practice of Wisconsin worker's compensation law, but all reference to an age limit would be removed. The proposal as adopted reads as follows:

The purposes of this committee are to provide information and assistance to WAWCA members developing their worker's compensation practice, provide a bridge between the developing members and the more experienced Wisconsin worker's compensation practitioners, encourage interest in the practice of Wisconsin worker's compensation law, and promote membership in WAWCA. The benefits and programs of this committee shall be open to members of WAWCA having ten (10) or less years of experience in the practice of Wisconsin worker's compensation law, and law students attending the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette University Law School.

The next meeting of the Association is scheduled by phone conference on Friday, November 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. President Bill Wulf will send out a reminder with the appropriate information to join the conference call prior to that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Hanson,
Secretary