

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS
(WAWCA)**

MINUTES

**Board of Directors' Telephone Conference Meeting
Friday, January 22, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on January 22, 2010 by President, John Edmondson. Board members present included Dennis Wicht, Jennifer Edmondson, Chuck Hanson, Tom Niemiec, Tom Horvath, Bill Wulf, Mark Parman, Chuck Soule, Scott French, and John Jokela. Non-board member present, Attorney Rich Davis, Chair, Young Lawyers Committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the board minutes of November 13, 2009, and the board minutes of December 4, 2009.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to receive the Treasurer's Report, indicating we currently have a balance of \$18,521.64 as of the end of December, 2009. The Treasurer has filed the Form 990N and the Treasurer will be filing the Wisconsin Corporate Status Form that is required annually.

The Treasurer also reports that the 501(h) Form has been filed that provides for the use of clear monetary parameters in determining whether a 501(3)(c) can do any lobbying within allowed parameters.

Rich Davis reported that the Young Lawyers Division would be working with the Website Committee for a page on the website dedicated to interest of young lawyers practicing worker's compensation. They will also be working with the Membership Committee to increase the younger lawyers' participation.

Tom Horvath reported for the Membership Committee that dues statements had gone out. As of 2009, we had over 200 members and currently based on renewals, we have 106 members. The membership dues often come in at the time of the summer conference.

We have an early bird membership dues discount that will expire on February 1, 2010. Anyone renewing their membership and paying their dues on or before February 1, 2010 will be able to pay only \$25.00 for their annual membership. After February 1, 2010, the dues will go up to \$35.00. Tom Horvath will be sending out an e-mail reminder to the membership so people still have time to take advantage of the early bird special.

It was reported that there are currently 16 people signed up for the February 25, 2010 half-day seminar. Tom Horvath reported that public notification will be going out. We are using the daily page of Isthmus, the Milwaukee Express, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. All of this is free to the Association. The membership will also be using the Wisconsin

State Journal website for an online notice of the Seminar event. This will cost \$12.50 for one week on their website.

John Jokela reported with regard to the Continuing Legal Education Committee that everything seems to be coming together well for the February seminar. There will be a sponsored breakfast and lunch for those who attend.

John Edmondson reported that he had talked to Cathy Lake about the concept of a Seminar Czar and discussions are still ongoing as to what that position might mean. Cathy Lake is no longer a member of the Board, but anyone can serve in roles of leadership. John Jokela raised the question of whether the Board should have some involvement in choosing topics and presentations given at our seminars, and there was a general consensus that that was reasonable and should be the case.

It was reported that the summer seminar would be held on July 22, 2010. The co-chairs working on this seminar are Krysta Walsh, Katie Lounsbury, and Colleen Bero-Lehman.

The Board of Directors meeting will take place on the evening of July 21, 2010. Time and place will be announced later.

John Edmondson reported with regard to the Policy and Procedures Committee that not much had been done in 2009. Something needs to be done to look into what the job description would be for this Committee in trying to identify which areas of Policy and Procedure the Board might wish for further study and action.

John Edmondson reported that with regard to Communications, currently Tom Horvath has been holding that title along with his work as Membership Chair. Given the nature of the work of Communications, it was felt that it would be more efficient and a fairer spreading of a large work load to establish two new committees, Advertising/Sponsorship and Website.

With regard to the Advertising/Sponsorship Committee which would include such things as website advertising, seminar sponsorships, and the like, the following people have agreed to help: Jeanne Welcenbach, Ted Franti, Melissa Kirschner and John Edmondson.

With regard to the Website Committee, they will focus on reviewing the current website and updating it to make it much more user friendly and beneficial to membership. Chuck Soule, Scott French, Jennifer Edmondson, Tom Niemiec, Dennis Wicht, and Chuck Hanson will assist. Tom Niemiec volunteered his firm's resources as they have experience in developing and maintaining websites.

There was a general discussion on the scholarships offered by WAWCA. It was felt that the scholarships are a good idea and helpful for our mission, plus giving us good public relations with the legal community in general, and especially with both Marquette and Wisconsin law schools. A motion was made, seconded, and adopted for \$1,500.00 to be

sent to both University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette Law School for the 2010 - 2011 academic year. Each law school can determine how they want to administer the scholarship, but the scholarship must go to a law student who is interested in and considering pursuing a career in law that includes the practice in the area of worker's compensation.

In Huntley-Cooper's letter in response to the letter sent by Bill Wulf concerning pre-trial conferences, Ms. Huntley-Cooper states that the prior practice will remain the same and not be changed as we had been led to believe.

Tom Niemiec will be looking into the cost of insurance coverage for directors and officers, as well as general liability insurance for the Association.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is tentatively set for April 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hanson
Secretary