

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS
(WAWCA)

MINUTES

Board of Directors' Telephone Conference Meeting
Friday, April 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on April 10, 2010 by President, John Edmondson. Board members present included Jennifer Edmondson, Chuck Hanson, Tom Niemiec, Bill Wulf, Mark Parman, Chuck Soule, Scott French, John Jokela, Melissa Kirschner, Ted Franti, Trish Sandoz. Non-board member present, Attorney Rich Davis, Chair, Young Lawyers Committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the board minutes of January 22, 2010.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to receive the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reports that we are in good financial shape with reserves of approximately \$25,000.00.

John Jokela reported for the Continuing Legal Education Committee reporting that the Spring Seminar on Medicare Set-Aside was a definite success. We also had a high level of interest at the seminar from claims adjusters. This seminar topic is one that might well be revisited.

The Board discussed the upcoming Summer Seminar and whether or not to adjust the cost of the seminar based on our current reserves. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to reduce the seminar fee for members from \$120.00 to \$110.00. A separate motion was made, seconded, and passed that there would be no reduction in the cost for the seminar for non-members. Non-members who wish to become members of the Board will still be able to obtain the lower seminar cost.

The Board discussed the scholarship program to the University of Wisconsin Law School and Marquette Law School. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to increase the scholarship awarded to both schools to \$2,500.00 beginning in September, 2010 for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Mark Parman will be discussing the timing of payment with both law schools and we will try and make sure that there is a designated WAWCA Scholarship Fund at both schools so that we can make the payment perhaps every September and the schools can decide when the actual scholarship is awarded.

Rich Davis reported for the Young Lawyers Division that they are still exploring ideas for the website. They have discussed at one of our Continuing Legal Education Seminars to have a section on Anatomy for Lawyers which might be helpful. We also request that when we have seminars, that announcements be made with regard to the existence of a Young Lawyers Committee. The Young Lawyers Committee also suggested that we

consider the possibility of a social component with one of our CLE Seminars. It was suggested that we modify our dues statement with regard to the Young Lawyers Division so that new lawyers to the practice could make an informed decision about becoming a member. Finally, it was suggested that the Board think about creating an associate membership classification that could be used for students at either law school to encourage their participation.

Mark Parman reported for the Membership Committee indicating that last year we had 236 members and so far in 2010 we have 165 members. The increase is due to the Summer Seminar and we can expect new membership again to increase around the time of the seminar and he expects that we would have at least 200 people as members by the end of the seminar.

With regard to the upcoming Summer Seminar, it was announced that the seminar planners are looking for a speaker with regard to a program on undocumented workers. Anyone who has a suggestion should forward that to John Jokela.

John Edmondson reported that he had invited Ms. Huntley-Cooper to say a few words at the Summer Seminar but had been informed by the seminar planners that there was no time available. Since she is not providing a program, it was suggested that she might be able to make her remarks during the business meeting, but in any event, the Board thought it was appropriate to provide some opportunity for Ms. Huntley-Cooper to talk to WAWCA members and probably important for us to develop a better relationship with her as an organization. It was the consensus of the Board that the seminar planners find an appropriate place in the schedule for Ms. Huntley-Cooper as we want to maintain and build good relationships with all key individuals who are involved in the worker's compensation process.

Our current President-Elect is Tom Niemiec who will become President in January, 2011. Mark Parman has agreed to run again for re-election as Treasurer and Chuck Hanson has agreed to run again for re-election as secretary with the assistance of Melissa Kirschner. Trish Sandoz is willing to consider the position of President-Elect, but would prefer to wait a year or so if another candidate can be found. Board members are encouraged to think about serving in this capacity and to let John Edmondson know of your interest.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting of the Board prior to the Summer Seminar.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hanson,
Secretary