

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS
BOARD PHONE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14, 2011

The telephone conference of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Tom Niemiec at 10:05 a.m. on October 14, 2011. Present were Mark McGillis, Mark Parman, John Edmondson, Ted Franti, John Jokela, Tom Landowski, Chuck Soule, Scott French, Tom Horvath, and Chuck Hanson. Absent were Pat Sandoz, Melissa Kirschner, and Dennis Wicht.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 27, 2011 Board meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Parman reported that after all income and expenses were taken into account, that the balance of funds available to the Association as of 9/23/2011 is \$21,151.43. This takes into account all the revenues and the costs associated with the summer seminar.

Spring, 2011 Seminar Update

There was a general discussion concerning the upcoming Spring seminar. It was agreed that a seminar would be held on March 1, 2012. It was further agreed that this would be a full day rather than a part-day seminar as the seminar would be held at the Marriott in Madison and the Board felt it was important to make the additional credits available so the trip for attorneys traveling from any distance to Madison would be worthwhile. Various topics were discussed for the seminar, including loss of earning capacity, technology, handling medical expenses and related attorneys fees. The Board deferred to the CLE committee to make recommendations at our next Board meeting. The general consensus was that all of these topics would be worthwhile, but if timing required, some of the subject matter could be deferred to the July, 2012 conference. John Jokela will be circulating to the Board members a proposal for the seminar content prior to November 1, 2012. Tom Landowski volunteered to assist the CLE committee and will be a part of that committee.

New Business

There was general discussion on encouraging Administrative Law Judges to serve on the Board for WAWCA. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to amend the By-Laws as follows:

Article VI. Board of Directors

Section 1. Qualifications of Electors. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the active members of the Association eligible to vote in the Association District in which such member of the Board of Directors has his or her principal office, except

that the Board may appoint up to two Administrative Law Judges from the Worker's Compensation Division to serve a term of two years, which may be renewed, but no such person shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

Membership Fees

Membership fees were discussed for 2012. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to set the dues for membership for 2012 at \$30.00 per member rather than the two-tiered membership levels that was used in the prior year.

Seminar Fees

The question of what would be an appropriate seminar fee to charge for the Spring Seminar and July Seminars was deferred to the anticipated December, 2011 telephonic meeting of the Board.

Foundation / Charitable Contributions

Tom Niemiec suggested that the Board give consideration to whether a contribution should be made from Association funds to other Foundations or charities. This was simply a matter for discussion and not action. It was pointed out in discussion that if we were to give anything to a Foundation or charity, that it should be law-related and apply state-wide, such as through the Wisconsin Law Foundation. Other suggested included funds to promote a better understanding among the general public with regard to the rights of workers involved in worker's compensation cases. There was also discussion of the importance of upgrading our website with such information as many people will seek information through Google. The clearly marked, readily accessible portion of the website to the basics of worker's compensation coverage in Wisconsin was discussed.

Website Update

At our previous meeting, a committee of three had been appointed to review and make recommendations to seriously overhaul and upgrade the WAWCA website. That committee will report to the Board at the Board's next meeting in December, 2011. We may very well need Association funds to pay for the type of upgrade and upkeep of an effective website.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hanson,
Secretary