

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

Minutes

**Board of Directors Telephone Conference
Friday, December 16, 2011 at 10 a.m.**

The telephone conference of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Tom Niemiec at 10:05 a.m. on December 16, 2011. Present were Mark McGillis, Mark Parman, John Edmondson, Ted Franti, John Jokela, Tom Landowski, Tom Horvath, Pat Sandoz, and Dennis Wicht.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the October 14, 2011 Board meeting were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Mark Parman reported that there has been no activity in the account since the last meeting, and that our balance remains at \$21,115.43. Mark Parman is prepared to transfer responsibilities to incoming Treasurer Krysta Walsh on January 1, 2012. Arrangements have been made for Krysta Walsh to be the signatory on the WAWCA checking account at US Bank in Madison effective January 1.
3. **Spring 2012 WAWCA Seminar Update.** John Jokela reported on the status of the upcoming Spring seminar, which is now scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012 at the Marriott in Middleton. Ross Kodner will be speaking on law firm technology. Charlie Domer and Scott Wade will be presenting an extended case law update. Vocational experts Michael Guckenberg and Bruce Schuyler have been lined up to give a presentation on vocational analysis and loss of earning capacity. Courtney Heeren and Aaron Halstead (or Sam Bomier) will present on refusal to rehire claims.

John suggested that we explore whether vendors would be interested in sponsoring the cost of an iPad to be given away at a drawing at the end of the seminar. One thought was that all attendees who have had a business card initialed by each of the vendors would then be eligible for the iPad drawing.

Tom Niemiec indicated that he had received requests from vendors at the 2011 Summer seminar for a list of the names and addresses of the attendees for the purposes of sending additional information and solicitations. There was a general discussion that while the Board would like to accommodate this request by the vendors given that they do contribute significant portions to defray costs of our educational programs, the Board was also concerned with privacy issues which may prohibit the dissemination of this information. To address this issue in the future, it was proposed that our brochures and seminar registration materials indicate that this information will be disclosed unless an attendee elects to opt-out at the registration desk.

There was further discussion of vendors at our seminars. The 2011 Summer seminar had an excellent turnout with 19 vendors attending, who contributed a total of \$5,200. This amount did not include significant gifts and prizes by the vendors, some of which had

values in the range of \$100-\$200. It was reported that at the last seminar, the vendors were charged \$200 for a table. If a vendor wished to sponsor breakfast or lunch, there was an additional contribution of \$100 required.

4. **Old Business.** The meeting next turned to the need to make improvements and updates to the WAWCA website. It was agreed that recommendations from the Communications & Website Committee regarding means to improve the website would be deferred to the first meeting in 2012.

It was suggested that the Committee should contact consultants and obtain recommendations with respect to both content and structure of the site. It was further suggested that the Committee should secure solicitations from consultants as to the cost of not only making current improvements to the website, but also of keeping the website updated in the future.

The meeting next turned to a discussion of the selection process to fill one or two ALJ positions on the Board given the recent amendment to the WAWCA By-Laws. The general consensus was that we should contact all ALJs (including James O'Malley and Jenell Knutson) to inquire as to who would be interested in joining the Board in 2012. If we have more than one or two judges interested, we would place all of the names in a hat and randomly pull names to fill the positions. The selection process was addressed now since it would be preferable to have the new ALJ Board member(s) selected at the start of the 2012 year.

5. **New Business.** Committee assignments for the year 2012 were then discussed. The Membership Committee will be made up of Mark Parman, Krysta Walsh, and Dennis Wicht. The Continuing Legal Education Committee will be made up of John Jokela, Trish Sandoz, Tom Landowski, and Ted Franti. The Policy & Procedure Committee, which currently is not an active committee, will be deferred for further consideration by the 2012 Board members. The Communication & Website Committee will consist of Tom Niemiec, Trish Sandoz, and Tom Landowski.

Any other Board member interested in joining one of these three committees should contact a current committee member. In the hope of achieving better participation and spreading the work to more than just a few select Board members, the incoming president will be contacting Board members to encourage them to play a more active role in the organization and in committee assignments.

There being no further business, a Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas L. Horvath
for Charles E. Hanson, Secretary