

Wisconsin Association of Worker's Compensation Attorneys (WAWCA)

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting March 9, 2012

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. on March 9, 2012 by President Mark McGillis. Board members and Directors present included Chelsie Allan, Krysta Walsh, Tom Niemiec, Mark Parman, Chuck Soule, John Jokela, Dennis Wicht, Dan Arndt and Melissa Kirschner. Also present were Cathy Lake and Tom Landowski.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 16, 2011 telephone conference were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Krysta Walsh reported on expenses and revenues of the Association. Our current balance is \$28,235.43 which does not include seminar deposits.

Memberships

It was reported that we have 170 paid memberships and the enrollment for the Spring Seminar was at 36 with 8 vendors confirmed.

Summer Seminar Update

Cathy Lake and Mary Lynn Endter are the CLE co-chairs for the seminar. One ethics credit will be applied for, along with 6-6 ½ regular CLE credits for the seminar.

Paul Riegel confirmed to speak on a topic that was yet to be decided, Mark McGillis and Bruce Schuyler would present on vocational topics including the 27 year maximum age presumption, disfigurement and retraining. In addition, Chuck Soule was discussed to speak regarding the Department's policy on MSA trusts and the approval of compromises which included MSA trusts, along with a potential panel of administrative law judges. Bill Sachse was also mentioned as a possible speaker on MSAs alongside an Applicant's attorney. Other potential topics included a case law update and Medicaid Recovery for which a representative from the Department of Justice or the Department of Health Services could discuss how aggressive the state will be on recovery for expenses paid and who they deem responsible for reimbursement.

Cathy Lake will take care of getting an I-Pad 2 and raffle tickets which should cost about \$400. Krysta Walsh indicated that there was a good vendor turnout so far and that brochures for the seminar would be ready to be distributed the day after the Spring Seminar.

Dinner will be held for Board members and presenters the night before the seminar at Delaney's and Cathy Lake will contact the hotel regarding reservations for those staying overnight.

Spring Seminar Update

Attendance was noted to be an area of concern. A reminder notice was sent to WAWCA members with the seminar brochure. 5 rooms had been booked for speakers and board members, the AV equipment had been rented and dinner will take place at Sprecher's for participating board members and speakers the night before the seminar.

John Jokela requested that all Board members reach out to the community to promote attendance at the seminar. John also suggested that district directors be responsible for member outreach and retention and that they be placed in charge of marketing the seminars to their district and trying to bring in new members to the organization. Other possible marketing techniques noted were emailing the seminar brochure to non-members, as well as face-to-face contact with members and non-member. Dennis Wicht offered to call all past members who had not yet paid their due to remind them to send payment and Krysta Walsh agreed to provide him with the past membership list. Mark Parman noted that most registrants for the seminars did not register until the last few weeks before the seminar and that there were also usually a decent amount of walk-ins on the day of the seminar. It was also suggested that information should be placed on the seminar brochure indicating that refunds for cancellations would only be processed before a certain date, after which refunds would not be provided.

Website

Tom Landowski expressed interest in getting involved with the Association's website and had contacted a program through UW Whitewater to possibly update and maintain the website. It was decided that Tom Landowski would obtain proposals and cost estimates from a variety of vendors to present to the Board, at which time the Board would decide how much money to dedicate to updating the website.

Miscellaneous

The Marquette scholarship dinner is scheduled for May 17, 2012 at 7pm at which time the WAWCA scholarship award would be presented.

Ted Franti resigned from his position in WAWCA and Cathy Lake suggested Curtis Lien to fulfill his position. Mark McGillis agreed to contact Curtis Lien to find out whether he would be interested.

John Jokela resigned as the CLE chair and Cathy Lake volunteered to fill his position after the Spring Seminar.

The Board also discussed potentially adding an administrative law judge position to the Board for which Ryan O'Connor had expressed interest. A motion was made to add Ryan O'Connor to the Board which passed unanimously. The Board welcomes its newest member!

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsie Allan

WAWCA Secretary