

Minutes of Annual Meeting — November 12, 2004

Wisconsin Association of Workers Compensation Attorneys, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Wisconsin Association of Worker's Compensation Attorneys, Inc., was held on November 12, 2004, in Appleton, Wisconsin.

- I. Call to Order: Mark Shore, President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., following adjournment of the Association's Second Annual Ethics Seminar. He stated the purpose of the meeting and took roll call.
- II. Introductions: Members and Officers attending introduced themselves.
- III. Secretary's Report: Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on July 15, 2004. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tom Bertz, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:
 - A. *Account Balance*

Andy Quartaro reported that the Association had approximately \$15,800 in its account. After the revenues and expenses for the November 12, 2004 Ethics Seminar are finalized, the account balance is expected to be approximately \$17,000.
 - B. *501(c)(3) Status*

It was noted that the IRS had approved the Association for 501(c)(3) status in 2002; Chuck Hanson requested that a copy of the IRS approval letter be provided to the Association's Secretary.
 - C. *Revenues from Association Membership Fees*

Tom McSweeney reported that the Association has 254 attorney members on our email list plus about 50 more attorney members who are not on the email list. We need to determine the number of those members who have (and have not) paid membership fees in 2004.
- V. Report of the CLE Chair: Mark shore reported that the July 15, 2004 Annual Seminar at the Marriott Madison West was approved for 6.5 CLE credits.

VI. Old Business:

A. *Appointment of Interim Secretary*

Denise Harron was unavailable to serve as Secretary of the Association during 2004 because she was out of the country. Barry Stern has been serving as Interim Secretary since July 2004.

B. *Scholarships*

In July 2004, the Board of Directors discussed the issue of using Association moneys to fund scholarships. A separate committee on this issue may be formed.

C. *Expenses/Revenues of July 15, 2004 Annual Seminar*

John Edmondson reported that expenses of the July 15, 2004 seminar were \$850, and revenues from the seminar were approximately \$1,000.

VII. New Business:

A. *Liability Insurance*

The Association is continuing to explore its options for liability/errors & omissions insurance for officers and directors. Mark Shore reported that we have received bids from two insurance companies, Neckerman Insurance (through Deerfield Insurance) and State Farm Insurance. The Neckerman policy would have an annual premium of \$1,909, and has aggregate coverage of \$1 million with \$0 deductible. The State Farm policy, with \$0 deductible, would have annual premiums of \$1,485 for \$1 million of coverage and \$1,188 for \$500,000 of coverage. There was a discussion of whether or not the Association needs a policy if we mainly sponsor seminars. Tom Bertz agreed to check the statutes governing liability of officers and directors (and members) of nonprofit organizations to see if we have adequate protection without insurance.

B. *Reimbursement for Paralegal Assistance*

Patricia Sandoz and Andy Quartaro's secretaries have done a lot of work for the Association, including typing, bookkeeping, coordinating CLE credits for seminars, compiling membership lists, etc. Cathy Lake suggested that we give them gift certificates rather than money so that we don't have to issue form 1099s. After discussion, Jim Bartells moved that we give a \$500 gift certificate to each secretary to a place of business determined by their employers (Trish and Andy). The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

- C. *Upcoming Meeting re: WC Division Schedules & Backlogs*
Cathy Lake reported that a meeting will be held to discuss possible changes in procedures in the DWD WC Division to reduce the backlog of hearings. Persons interested in participating in the meeting should contact Cathy.
- D. *November 2005 Ethics Seminar*
Co-chairs for this seminar are Sam Bomier and Mark Gustafson.

VIII. Election of 2005 Officers & Directors

The following members were nominated for their respective positions and accepted the nominations. There were no other nominations for these positions. Each nomination was seconded, and each member was unanimously elected:

- A. *President-Elect:* Tom McSweeney (replacing Jim Bartells).
- B. *Treasurer:* John Griner (replacing Andy Quartaro).
- C. *Secretary:* Barry Stern (replacing Denise Harron).
- D. *District 2 Director:* Bill Wolford (replacing John Jokela).
- E. *District 3 Director:* Jennifer Edmondson (replacing Sam Bomier).
- F. *District 4 Director:* Mike Kulkoski. (Mike did not attend the meeting but previously indicated that he was willing to serve another term.)
- G. *District 7 Director:* Cathy Lake (replacing Tom McSweeney).
- H. *Board Chair:* Chuck Hanson (replacing Tom McSweeney).

IX. Amendment of By-Laws

A copy of the Association's by-laws with proposed changes was distributed to all members present. The by-laws with proposed changes are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The Annual Meeting was suspended for a brief meeting of the Board of Directors. The meeting was called to order by new Board Chair, Chuck Hanson. A quorum (two-thirds of the Directors) was present. Chuck moved that the Board of Directors approve the proposed changes to the by-laws. The motion was seconded. The proposed changes to the by-laws were unanimously approved by the Board of Directors. The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned.

The Annual Meeting was resumed. Chuck Hanson moved that the proposed changes to the by-laws as approved by the Board of Directors be adopted. The motion was seconded. The proposed changes to the by-laws as approved by the Board of Directors were unanimously adopted.

X. Adjournment: Having heard no other new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Barry Stern, Secretary