

Wisconsin Association of Workers Compensation Attorneys (WAWCA)

Board of Directors Telephone Conference Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 20, 2009

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Wulf at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call. Charles Soule, Tom Niemiec, William Wulf, Patricia Sandoz, Thomas Horvath, Scott French, Mark Parman, John Edmondson, and Charles Hanson. In addition, non-board members present included Mark McGillis, Charles Domer, Jennifer Edmondson and Rich Davis.

Minutes. Motion was made and seconded to receive and approve the minutes of the July 17, 2008 annual meeting together with the Board of Directors telephone conference meeting minutes of September 19, 2008.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Mark Parman reported that the statement of funds he currently has is \$7,842.45. He also said another account exists with John Griner which has somewhere around \$5,000.00 in it and together we have approximately \$13,000.00. Mark Parman will be obtaining all of the files and documents relating to WAWCA held by John Griner which should include an accounting of the receipts and expenditures while he has been treasurer.

Form 990's. The board discussed the ongoing failure to file the Form 990's. John Griner had reported to Bill Wulf that he was working on this and still intended to file these documents and was intending to take care of this. He is taking a day's vacation later this month to take care of this, as well as organizing other financial matters relating to the Association. Jennifer Edmondson noted that this raises potential questions about the viability of our tax-exempt status. Concern was expressed by the Board as to why this was still a pending issue. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that on or before March 1, 2009, Mark Parman will meet with John Griner and arrange for a transfer of all WAWCA material in John Griner's possession to be delivered to the new treasurer.

Annual Seminar. Charlie Domer and Mark McGillis have agreed to coordinate the 2009 annual summer seminar. It will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at the Marriott in Middleton where the seminars have been previously held. Charlie Domer talked for the need for a mailing list and he will be contacting Mary Lynn Endter, our website editor, who has the e-mail list. The Continuing Education Committee, including Cathy Lake, Mark McGillis, and Charlie Domer, have the program lined up but suggestions for topics or speakers are always welcome as they can be used in subsequent seminars if they are not needed now.

As part of the summer seminar under our By-Laws, we will now have our annual meeting. The annual meeting will be scheduled during the summer seminar on July 30, 2009. In that regard, President Bill Wulf reminded the Board that the three directors, namely, the

directors of District 5, District 7, and District 9 will be up for election. If the current directors have not served two consecutive terms and are interested in continuing to serve, they should contact Bill Wulf. If anyone on the Board has suggestions for future members of the Board, please bring this to the attention of Bill Wulf, as well as suggestions for the position of President-Elect.

The Communication Committee will include issues related to scholarship presentations as well as the website.

The Board of Directors will hold a meeting on the evening before the summer seminar. Speakers at the upcoming conference will be invited to join the Board for dinner on July 29, 2009. A block of rooms will be set aside for those members of the Board that are spending the night of July 29, 2009 at the Marriott in connection with the Directors meeting and the subsequent summer seminar the following day.

Ad-Hoc Committees. President Bill Wulf asked the Board to review the various ad-hoc committees. John Edmondson reported that with regard to policy and procedures, he reported an issue of December of 2008. The committee has two sub-committees, one for attorneys fees and one for scheduling issues. With regard to scheduling issues, they were looking to telephone scheduling, especially on permanent total disability cases. John Edmondson felt that this committee could likely be phased out. Chuck Hanson reported that with regard to the Certificate of Readiness Committee, the initial goals of the Board have been met in terms of meeting and having some changes to the form letters. However, the Certificate of Readiness now has become an established part of practice in how the Department wishes to conduct worker's compensation cases and the Bar has been adjusting accordingly. At the present time, no further action is required of this ad-hoc committee.

Web Advertising. There was discussion of the issue of Web advertising. It was felt that additional guidelines are needed. The issue of website advertising is part of the responsibility of the Communications Committee and that committee should look at developing guidelines for the Board's consideration.

Membership. Tom Horvath reported that with regard to membership, we currently have 165 members now and it is hoped that additional members will be increased as the result of attendance at the summer seminar. The Board discussed the importance of finding opportunities for ALJ's to be not only members, but included on either the Board or Committees of WAWCA.

With John Edmondson leaving the Board as a Director as of January 1, 2010, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that his term would be completed by Jennifer Edmondson.

Young Lawyers Committee. Rich Davis discussed the possibility of creating a Young Lawyers Committee (e.g., members with five years experience or less practicing in the area of worker's compensation law) to explore presenting a CLE program geared to recent

graduates, establishing a mentoring program, and creating a possible Young Lawyers list serve. Rich Davis was appointed as a study committee to evaluate the level of interest in a Young Lawyers Committee and to report back to the Board.

Amendments to the WAWCA By-Laws. Proposed amendments to the By-Laws were previously circulated to the members of the Board. President Bill Wulf reviewed the changes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the proposed amendments to the By-Laws are approved and adopted.

Fall Seminar. President Bill Wulf reported that ALJ Ed Falkner has again agreed to present his fall ethics seminar in 2009 (three credits and at no charge). There was a discussion as to whether WAWCA should present its own separate fall seminar again this year. The 2008 fall seminar which was held in Wisconsin Dells was attended by approximately 30 people. Patricia Sandoz was not available to comment on the profitability of last year's fall seminar. Consequently, the issue of a separate 2009 fall seminar was deferred to the next Board meeting, along with the issue of Website features.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Board meeting adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hanson, Secretary
Thomas L. Horvath