

## **Minutes of Section Winter Meeting of December 5, 2019**

### **Present:**

Andrea Hamm, Rosa Bava, Jayson Chizick, Sean Shearer, Rick Lovernick, Sam Larrabee, John Combs, Jessica Stark, Mark Long, Daryl Royal, Jeffrey Kirschner, Ken Wedes, Al Gorosh, Don Hannon, Geive Hasal, Mike Brenton, Marvin Baisel, Steve Wieber, Ben Veldkamp, Sam Hijazi, William Farley, Ronal Beier, Mike Roth, Jerry Yacoo, John Charters, Paul Palgut, John Buehner, Andrew Lemke, Phil Brown, Tom Gunton, Kate Lewis, Jacob Bender, Jessica Soblesby, Sasha Boersma, Kathleen Wyeth, Don Ducey, David DeGraw, M. Lasser, Murray Gorchow, Lou Ognisanti, Haley Barrett, Brian Richards, Charles Manion, Jason Seifert, Michael Cantor, Michael Mason, Rick Ehrlich, Karl Bender, Mike Reinholm, Sara Ryan, Granner Ries, Ron Roseman, Kevin Davis, Anthony Quarto, Carmen Tice, Lenny Segel, Renee Pries, Peter Verros, Robin Edelson, Deb Strain, Randy MacArthur, Steve Hirsch, Joel Alpert, Jason Welsh

Chair Hamm called the meeting to order.

**Report from the Chair:** Chair Hamm provided notice to the Section that a proposal to increase bar dues by \$5.00 will be placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting in June, 2020. Chair Hamm advised that the annual meeting will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 18-19, 2020.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chair Hamm advised of the section's finances, account balances and expenses.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Chizick informed the group where to obtain Council Minutes at the State Bar website.

### **Chief Magistrate Luke McMurray Deferred**

**Workers' Compensation Agency Director Mark Long:** Director Long confirmed the new department and agency structure. A workgroup on telemedicine and health care services rules is ongoing, with a focus on access to care. There has been a decrease in opioid prescriptions secondary to the rules that went into effect in the past several years. The Director is working on electronic service motions and orders. There have been 49 magistrate opinions sent to date and 189 facilitations completed by magistrates this year. There has been a slight increase in new case filings. The Director confirmed that there is now a link open for transmission of 104-A via PDF submission. Director Long confirmed that uninsured employers are a continuing issue that is being looked at. An auditor general report has recommended improvement in the WCA in a couple of areas.

**Workers' Disability Appeals Commission Chair Daryl Royal:** The appeals commission is working on administrative rules at this time. The commission is working on only workers' compensation appeals. The backlog of motions before the commission is being addressed. Chair Royal addressed commissioner conflicts. There were 45 pending appeals at the time of abolishment of the last commission. With recent filings, there are now 51 pending appeals.

**Dr. Steven Kushner:** Dr. Kushner discussed orthopedic surgical issues and entertained questions and answers.

**Case Law Update-Michael Reinholm:** Mr. Reinholm provided a case law update and entertained questions and answers.

**The meeting was adjourned.**