

MINUTES OF 12/4/15 WINTER MEETING & WC COUNCIL MEETING

Chris Rabideau called the Winter Meeting to order at 9:00.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mark Long reported continued issues with creating a new computer system. He says this is a high priority at LARA. He reported that, as of 12/26/15, the new opioid rules apply to all cases whenever filed. Regarding Redemption Reviews, Mark advised that the requesting party does NOT need to order the redemption hearing transcript until a hearing is scheduled. Most cases are resolved by Agency staff without a hearing.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S REPORT

Lisa Klaeren reported progress on better coordinating pretrial and scheduling conference dates. Some hearing offices have combined PT and SchConf dates. Based on filings thru August, she estimates a total of 65-6600 for the year. Filings in 2013 were ~ 7100; 2014 ~ 6200. Re: Delphi cases: the SISF has funds to settle cases. No surprise: magistrate decisions continue to trend down: '11-214; '12-212; '13-157; '14-105; '15-93 thru October. ~97% of decisions are issued within 42 days; the BOM goal is 30 days; the avg is now 22 days.

MCAC REPORT

George Wyatt reported 30 dispositions thru Nov '15. He projected that there would be ½ of the 2014 total. Since federal UIA guidelines are tied to MCAC funding, UIA cases get priority. Robo-adjudication of UIA fraud cases tripled their UIA caseload. 8 of 9 commissioner positions are filled. When openings occur, George said they will want new members with WC experience.

GUEST SPEAKER

Doug Klein gave a very informative talk about MSA practice and procedure.

SECTION MEMBER SURVEY

Jayson Chizick presented the results of the member survey. A majority of respondees reported that Stokes proofs have had the biggest impact on WC practice, and that speakers at future section meetings should address Stokes proofs.

STATE OF THE LAW—Marty Critchell

Marty gave his usual insightful perspective on recent caselaw.

LUNCHEON COUNCIL MEETING

During a brief council meeting before lunch, the minutes of Nov meeting were adopted. Gift cards for the guest speakers were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis Flynn reported a balance of \$75,663.83, and the total contribution for 2015 to Kid's Chance of \$7,500. His report was adopted.

2016 SUMMER MEETING

Meeting will be at Boyne Mountain. Contract changes required by Cliff Flood were accepted by Boyne Mtn. Deposit already approved.

HALL OF FAME

Chris Rabideau proposed an age 70 criteria. Phil Frame voiced objection. No Council action was taken. It was agreed that Chris would circulate his HOF criteria proposal for council consideration.

(Since the Dec. meeting, Chris reported that the consensus was to leave the HOF criteria alone for now so that the nomination process can proceed. HOF criteria may be revisited at future meetings.)

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. A delightful luncheon followed.

Submitted 2/4/16

Tim Esper

Secretary