

Minutes of Council of the Workers' Compensation Section Meeting

June 18, 2015

Present at Meeting:

J. William Housefield
Tim Esper
Ella Parker
Chris Rabideau
Danielle Brown
Rosa Bava
Matt Conklin
Dennis Flynn
Jayson Chizick
Andrea Hamm
Chuck Palmer
John Combs (via telephone)

Chairperson Bill Housefield called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM to address the following Agenda:

- 1. Secretary's report:** Member Parker advised there were 2 corrections to the May 8, 2015 minutes that were proposed. The first change was to include John Combs as being present via Fuze. The second change was to include Danielle Brown as being present via Fuze as well. With these changes, upon Motion by Member Rabideau, seconded by Member Hamm, the Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the May 8, 2015 meeting.
- 2. Treasurer's report:** Member Esper indicated that based upon the May report from the State, the Section had \$90,484.51 in their account. The cost of the annual Section meeting would need to be subtracted from this amount and we would not have any additional dues until November. Upon Motion by Member Parker, seconded by Member Hamm, the Council unanimously approved the Treasurer's report. (A discussion about Kid's Chance was deferred to new business.)
- 3. Thursday Night Bar:** Chairperson Housefield indicated that the unanimous opinion seemed to be that we have an after party at Minerva's at the hotel and asked that the cost be billed directly to our Master Account. Upon Motion by Member Chizik, seconded by Member Bava, Council unanimously agreed that we would include 2 additional drink tickets in each name tag that could be utilized either during the dinner or at Minerva's after party by the members. This motion addressed the \$500 limit voted upon at the May 8, 2015 Council Meeting and removed the limit of \$500 in light of the ability to directly bill the master account.
- 4. Friday's dinner location:** Chairperson Housefield indicated that the language we adopted regarding having an executive member present at the dinner on Friday night to pick up the tab and seek reimbursement from the Section afterwards was sufficient and

did not need to be amended. There was no limit on the Friday night dinner expenses as it is hard to predict the number of people who will be attending.

5. Section's use of Lobbyist: Member Housefield spent time with our presenter Nell Kuhnmuensch discussing lobbyist and how they can be of benefit. Sometimes, they are placed on a monthly retainer. At a minimum, Ms. Kuhnmuensch recommended that under our regular monthly agendas dealing with the Director's Report and the Chief Magistrate's Report that we specifically asked them whether there are any new proposed rules, statutes or amendments being discussed by the administration.

6. New Business:

- a. Member Esper and Member Hamm discussed Kid's Chance of Michigan and donating to such a worthy cause. Member Rabideau moved and Member Chizik seconded that the Section contribute \$2500 to Kid's Chance at the current time and consider an additional donation at the end of the year. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Member Esper also indicated he would like an opportunity to lobby the Section as a whole as part of the Agenda for the June 19, 2015 meeting. Chairperson Housefield agreed that Member Esper could present after the Appellate Commission report by Ms. Brown.
- c. Chairperson Housefield wished to note what a great help Danielle Brown has been this past year as our liaison. Danielle has provided tremendous insight and information in regards to the hoops we, as a Section, need to go through in order to support a bill. The State Bar's General Counsel, Peter Cunningham is more than willing to speak with any of us. He can be contacted at 517 – 346 – 6325.
- d. Member Chizik addressed the complaint that some members of our Section voiced to him about the Administration not listening to our concerns. Topics included the inconsistency in pretrials and scheduling conferences, meeting with the administration on a regular basis, and Rule 5 hearings. Ms. Brown recommended that we schedule a meeting at the State Bar with a court reporter, where those who have concerns can come and share them in person, within a certain allotted time frame and, then the Council could seek a meeting with Director Long and Chief Magistrate Klaeren to discuss the specific concerns. Member Parker moved, seconded by Member Bava, to table this discussion to a future meeting with the new Council. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Member Parker, seconded by Member Rabideau, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 PM. New Chairperson Rabideau will provide notice of the upcoming meeting scheduled for the fall of 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella S. Parker,

Secretary Workers' Compensation Section