

Minutes from Section Meeting on June 19, 2015

Bill Housefield called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and presented opening remarks regarding the Section and his desire over the past year to keep everyone informed and up to date.

Next, Director Mark Long presented a State Update and provided background information about himself. He discussed the new computer system and their hope that the system will be up and running in the Spring of 2016. The state is attempting to combine their system and MAH's system into one new system called Highly Advanced WC System (HAWCS).

Director Long announced that John Schrock is the Active Funds Administrator Trustee. The Trustees control the Funds and he discussed the progress in the Delphi cases although the litigation is still pending regarding who should be responsible for payment.

Finally, Director Long discussed the new Opioid Rules effective June 26, 2015.

Chief Magistrate Lisa Klaeren provided an update on the Michigan Administrative Rules and the Board of Magistrates. Magistrate Klaeren discussed the fact that we do not have any anticipated re-appointments for Magistrate up until early 2017. We are currently down to 15 magistrates and that number may decrease in the future.

Magistrate Klaeren discussed the importance of facilitations and how different parties approach them differently, like briefs or one page summaries. Magistrates average 13 facilitations per month per magistrate. On the other hand, there were only 42 decisions from trials through March. This leads to anticipated 120 trials by year end, compared to 214 trials in 2011 when she took over. This number has been steadily declining.

Magistrate Klaeren reiterated that MAHs is shooting for a goal of 18 months longevity for all cases. While this number has improved over the last couple of months, they do not expect significant change because of the impact of Medicare/CMS cases.

This fall the Magistrates will be meeting to discuss scheduling Orders: are they effective, are their problems with them, and whether they are being handling consistently?

Commissioner Danielle Brown provided an update on behalf of the Commission. As of June 12, there were 98 workers compensation cases pending before the Appellate Commission.

Tim Esper discussed Kids Chance of Michigan including a then upcoming Tigers game and a golf outing scheduled for September. The Council voted yesterday to contribute \$2,500 to Kid's Chance.

Our keynote speaker was Nell Kuhnmuensch. She discussed how we can make an impact on the rule making process. She also provided a handout on the LARA Administrative Process. Ms. Kuhnmuensch provided a lot of valuable insight as to how lobbyist are used in the process.

The Section elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Christopher Rabideau
Vice Chairperson: Ella S. Parker
Secretary: J. Timothy Esper
Treasurer: Dennis Flynn

Council Members with Terms expiring in June 2018:

Jayson Chizick
Mark Sesì
Chris Westgate

Chris Rabideau also took an opportunity to discuss an issue that is near and dear to his heart, the Medicare/CMS issue. Chris sought approval from the Council to write a letter to our senators regarding the new proposed statute and the need for clarity in CMS issues. Chris will write the letters, with the Bar's approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella S. Parker