

Minutes of the WC Section Council- March 1, 2013

Present: Martin, Palmer, Kales, Esper, Parker, Rabideau, Flynn, Jack Nolish, Jack Wheatley

1. Minutes of 2/1/13 meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer's report- Mr. Rabideau reported the last reported balance was \$82,601.76 at the end of January, and that the Kids Chance donation of \$7,500.00 should reduce the balance to about \$75,000. Motion to approve the treasurer's report passed.

3. Deputy Director's report- Mr. Nolish reported that the Director is at a meeting regarding the chronic use of opioids. There is a 3/19 symposium scheduled with the Medical Director of Washington's WC agency to discuss the issue. The Health Care Service rules have been posted. Electronic benefits rule is about to be placed into effect. It will allow direct deposit or a credit card type arrangement. At the present time redemptions and accrued wage loss are not going to be part of this procedure. The injured worker has an absolute right to opt out and get a written check instead. Ms. Parker expressed a concern about fees to recipients.

4. MCAC report- Mr. Wheatley reported that as of February 25, they had 139 active cases and 75 cases had been assigned for decision. He requested that any attorneys who change their address need to notify the Commission.

5. Board of Magistrates- Ms. Parker read Chief Magistrate Klaeren's report. The Board is not going to be increased beyond its current 15 magistrates. There will not be any full-time magistrate in the UP and Flint, Pontiac, and Gaylord are also being reduced in the number of weeks of service. In 2012, the percentage of aged cases greater than a year old was reduced from 40% to 34.7%, and 93.4% of all magistrate decisions were issued within 42 days. 82% of all trials were finished within 30 days of their start.

Mr. Nolish added that 2012 filings were down to 7400 cases, a new low.

6. Old Business

a. Several nominations have been made to the Hall of Fame. Ms. Parker requested the committee complete its work by the next meeting.

b. Summer Meeting-Ms. Parker met with the resort recently and negotiated better prices on the dinners. Mr. Rabideau reported that the total summer and winter meeting costs are about \$25,000, but reduced by \$9,000 in income, costs the section a net \$16,000. Dues are about \$20,000/year. A motion passed to keep the cost to summer meeting ^{COSTS} attendees the same as last year. Ms. Parker outlined the agenda for the summer meeting and the speakers, which will include the usual speakers: Director, Chief Magistrate, MCAC chair, a case law update by Marty Critchell and a state bar speaker about technological issues. Mr. DeGraw is in charge of the golf after the Friday meeting.

c. Past Presidents' Golf Outing- Mr. Flynn reported that there are 10 golfers and 13 for lunch. Estimated cost will be \$55-60/person for the golf and \$15-20 for lunch. The estimated total cost will be around \$1200.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Palmer

Acting Secretary