

Workers' Compensation Section Council-State Bar of Michigan
Minutes of the meeting of the Council of September 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Andrea Hamm

Attendees: Andrea Hamm, Jayson Chizick, Phil Frame, Chris Westgate, Mark Long, Dan Zolkowski, Sam Larrabee, Jessica Stark, John Combs and Sean Shearer

Report of the Secretary: the secretary presented the minutes of the meetings of June 13, 2019 and June 25, 2019, along with the annual meeting minutes of June 14, 2019.

Larrabee ***moved*** to approve the minutes of the three meetings.

Frame ***seconded*** the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Discussion was held to obtain quotes from the Lansing Lugnuts for an April or May past-chairperson meeting/function. Chizick to obtain quotes.

Report of the Treasurer: the treasurer advised that the council is doing well financially and that all necessary documentation has been presented to the State Bar.

Zolkowski ***moved*** to approve the treasurer's report.

Westgate ***seconded*** the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Report of the Director: Director Long advised of the change of the WCA to the Workers' Disability Compensation Agency, along with the movement of the Agency from

LARA to LEO. The Board of Magistrates will be an independent entity within the Agency. MCAC has been split into unemployment and Workers'

Compensation appeals, and as of the date of the meeting, no commissioners had been named by the governor. Director Long suggested that

litigants not miss filing deadlines, as no-one had the legal authority to respond to motions filed with MCAC. The BOM and WDCA are working on

rules and welcome input from the Council and section members. A government shut-down is possible, and determinations are being made on any essential personnel/magistrates.

Report of the Chief Magistrate: deferred

Newsletter: Mr. Zolkowski is targeting publication of the newsletter for late October 2019.

Mr. Reinholm will be contributing to the newsletter as case summary

editor. Mr. Zolkowski is hoping for article contributions from members.

Legislative Update: Mr. Combs reported that there is nothing new or significant pending other than modifications of the firefighter statute. Mr. Chizick requested and was granted removal from this committee.

Winter Meeting: Treasurer Frame confirmed that the Winter Meeting will be held on 12/6/19 at 9a.m. at either Schoolcraft College or Inn at St. John's. Quotes were

obtained from both institutions. Treasurer Frame is looking at possible key-note speakers, and is targeting a foot/ankle surgeon for a presentation.

Treasurer Frame was tasked by the council to decide on the venue that best meets the goals of a large crowd of members.

Westgate ***moved*** that council allot up to a \$1000 stipend for a key-note speaker for the winter meeting.

Shearer ***seconded*** the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Shearer ***moved*** council authorize up to \$3500 for room and food expenses for the 12/6/19 winter meeting at either Schoolcraft or Inn at St. John's.

Westgate ***seconded*** the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Summer Meeting: Chairperson Hamm expressed interest in having the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Discussions of a brewery tour and hotels were held. The Annual Meeting will be held from June 11-12, 2020.

Kids Chance: Mr. Westgate was tasked with following up with Kids Chance to determine their funding needs and status.

Winter Meeting: A request was made by section member Fred Bleakley for funding and promotion of the annual winter meeting getaway. The consensus of the Council was that it would agree to publicize, but not financially contribute to this meeting.

Bar Journal/Medicare: Chairperson Hamm will send an e-blast to the section membership for journal article topics.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: October 4, 2019 via Uberconference

Adjournment: Treasurer Frame ***moved*** council adjourn the meeting.
Westgate ***seconded*** the motion.
Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.