

Workers' Compensation Section Executive Council Meeting
Joe's Stone Crab
Miami Beach, FL
January 27, 2017

- I. Call to Order Alan Kalinoski, Chair
- A. Introduction of Guests
- Honorable Clay Roberts, Honorable James Wolf, Honorable Brad Thomas and Honorable Jon Wheeler
 - Fausto Gomez
 - Richard Sicking and George Cappy, Emeritus
- II. Approval of Minutes Joanne M. Prescott, Secretary
- Traverso moved to approve August meeting minutes
 - Motion seconded and approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Philip Augustine, Treasurer
- \$56k in black
 - If need info on line items, ask Willie Mae, as the Bar is changing format of reports and not complete yet.
- IV. Committee Reports:
- A. Section CLE: Dawn Traverso, Chair
- Learn at Lunch program. Please sign up to speak, there is an immediate need.
 - Booked until the end of the year, everything going very well.
 - Winter Retreat-going to Snowmass at end of February.
- B. Legislative Committee: Rick Thompson & Chris Smith Co-Chairs
- Everyone has a bill they are going to file. Everyone has an agenda.
 - We should know by Monday as bill drafting was due today. Rate reform bill to single lost cost competitive rate system.
 - Chamber still working on draft, 11th draft.
 - Many believe there will not be a bill, slight chance there will be a compromise.
 - Chait has been there everyday.
 - We likely will not have a codification of Castellanos and Miles. May have some fixes though.
 - Fausto says in the house there will a committee bill. Several in senate---issue on fees.
 - Fausto feels claimant's bar fairly united on position to take. He feels this is an issue that will go on for a few more years.

- Anderson says there is some interest to eliminate NOI due to mail solicitation. Also some effort to reign in PEO's and require more accountability.
- Chait is advocating for the betterment of the system. Focus back on just the claimant and the employer. Get back to the foundation of the system.
- Sicking says in history, the vast number of wc laws are captured in the last hour of the last day.

- C. News & 440 Report: Glen Wieland, Guest Editor
- Glen and his 2 sons are guest editors for next edition.
 - Kalinoski says we need to appoint an editor, but it has been a challenge, so we will likely look for another guest editor for next edition
 - McCormack suggested asking people who would like to be members to become editor
- D. Membership Committee: Timothy Dunbrack, Chair
- 1,205 members
 - Increase in 75 members
 - Increase attributed to Castellanos and link on the website.
 - McCormack went through list of those who are on e-filing service portal but not members. Determining how to contact these people and motivating factors.
 - Goal for next meeting is 1,300
- E. Forum Committee: Leo Garcia, Chair
- Book is at the printer.
 - A few changes, the 1st DCA will not be able to join us, however, we will have a panel on medical marijuana and a live spinal surgery.
 - Get your room, there are only 25 left. Friday is sold out.
 - 141 for attendees, more than this time last year.
 - More law firm sponsorships than this time last year, great job to Lizzette Francisco.
 - It seems we will have more attendees this year.
 - Kalinoski says by far our most profitable event. Thank you Leo.
- F. Rules Committee: Mark Touby, Chair
- Some rules are making their way around again, election of live judge, tweaking of rule on verified motion vs. verified petition to be conformity with other rules. Rules with respect to Miles, which has caused much angst.
 - Exec has not taken a position on any of these yet.
 - Committee imbalanced now towards defense.
 - Judge Renee Hill is first sitting judge to be appointed to committee.
- G. Judiciary Committee: Mike Winer, Chair
- Supporting a measure to try to get JCC salaries tied to increases with County judges. We want judges to know we support this measure. He is asking Chait and Fausto to try to add this on to one of the bill's that has momentum.
- H. Board Certification Committee Philip Augustine, Chair
- 13 people signed up, which is an increase over the past 5 years.

- Test in May, results in September.
- I. Technology Committee: Richard Manno, Chair
- People are responding to the website, trying to keep up to date.
 - Flabarwcs.org
 - Make a push at the Forum to promote the Facebook page and Twitter account.
 - Good opportunity to advertise new members.
 - Traverso recommended inviting people to like the FB page.
- J. Sponsorship & Advertising: Lizette Francisco, Co-Chair
Geoff Bichler, Co-Chair
- 17 firm sponsors for Forum.
 - Advertising needs everyone's help to find advertisers, there are 2 levels. We have Ringler as top sponsor.
- V. Chair Report Alan Kalinoski, Chair
- Many meetings with Florida Bar and Florida Bar President.
 - Encouraged to appoint a section liaison on diversity to get lawyers involved to represent our community.
 - Karen Cullen has been appointed as section liaison. Thompson moved to approve Cullen as liaison. Seconded and approved.
 - Also asked to appoint liaison to constitutional revision committee. Every 20 years by statutory mandate, we need to review the constitution to see if it needs to be revised.
 - Robert Strunin has been appointed as liaison. Rogner moved to approve Strunin as liaison. Seconded and approved.
 - HealthIE Network/One time change. There is an investigation ongoing, however, it is important as a section to let the main agencies to let them know our opinions as it is adversely affecting the practice as a whole.
- VI. Chair-Elect Report: Paul Anderson, Chair-elect
- We are more than halfway through Alan's term. It is has been Anderson's honor to serve with him, his dedication and sense of fairness.
- VII. New Business:
- Florida Defense League reached out to have a WC boot camp for them. We can use as an avenue to increase membership. No overhead cost. Rogner offered to participate.
 - Proposed amendments to bylaws:
 - Term Limits-problem where some elected as chair elect could potentially term out before they serve.
 - Disbanding honorary members. We previously submitted these potential changes to the Bar, and we received response that we essentially need to redraft the entire bylaws.
 - Anderson suggested in rewriting to have 2 substantive changes. First, he would suggest having the option to have our annual year at the Forum if desired. The other recommended change was dealing with term limits as Kalinoski did not feel term limits a good idea as many of those people have been so instrumental on the exec council.

- Jacobs spoke in favor of term limits. We protect institutional knowledge with Emeritus status, you only have to stay off 3 years, and it allows the group to open and bring in new blood.
- Anderson suggested allowing Emeritus members a vote so the seat can be given up, but still being able to be active.
- Changes can not be approved until general membership meeting.
- Motion to table changes until general meeting.
- Excused absences:
 - Geoffrey Bichler
 - Keith Pallo
 - Martin Liebowitz
 - Motion to approve excused absences seconded and approved.
- Unexcused:
 - Richard Berman
 - Albert Garcia
 - Motion to approve the unexcused absences is tabled.
- Thank you to Willie Mae for her tireless efforts

VIII. Upcoming CLE Program- Audio Webcast-

- See discussion above

IX. Future Meetings:

- A. 33rd Winter Retreat, February 26-March 2, 2017, Snowmass Village, CO
- B. Forum, April 6-7, 2017, Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
- C. Long Range Planning Meeting & Retreat, May 18-21, 2017, Charleston, SC
Double Tree Hotel
- D. Annual Meeting & Elections, August 8, 2017, World Center Marriott, Orlando

Motion to adjourn meeting was seconded.

1:47pm meeting adjourned

Attendees:

Paul Anderson
 Jeffrey Appel
 Philip Augustine
 George Cappy
 Richard Chait
 Karen Cullen
 Timothy Dunbrack
 Lizzette Francisco
 Leo Garcia
 Jeff Jacobs
 Alan Kalinoski
 Paulo Longo
 Richard Manno
 Sean McCormack
 Rick Morales

Joanne Prescott
Bill Rogner
Mike Rudolph
Christopher Smith
Robert Strunin
Brian Sutter
Richard Thompson
Mark Touby
Dawn Traverso
Glen Wieland
Mike Winer

Willie Mae Shepherd