



WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMITTEE - CONFERENCE CALL NOTES APRIL 7, 2016

The Workers' Compensation Committee had its annual live-and-in-person meeting at the CLM Annual Conference on April 7, 2016. The meeting was very well attended and there was a lot of excellent discussion.

The co-chairs at the meeting were Jim Poerio and Mike Mattix. The discussion focused on a number of topics including leadership roles on the committee as well as the subcommittees, publications and authorship for *WC Magazine* and *Litigation Management Magazine*, and the committee's goals and objectives for 2016 and beyond.

There was discussion about the committee leadership. Jim Poerio mentioned that the co-chairs do not have a specific "term of office," but neither are the positions guaranteed for life. The same is true of subcommittee co-chairs. Anyone interested in a leadership role on the committee was asked to contact Jim Poerio directly at JPoerio@pwlawinc.com or by his office direct dial at 412-246-2015, or by his cell phone which is 412-551-5066.

No specific deadlines exist for changing the leadership, but we are interested in knowing who wants to contribute in a leadership role.

There was a discussion about the activities of the other subcommittees. A lengthy discussion about the Adjuster Training subcommittee took place. Questions were raised by some of the members present about the viability of having the existing Workers' Compensation 101 Adjuster Training Program presented to a CLM member company that might want to train only one or two or a small number of its new claims professionals. A question was raised about whether the Adjuster Training Program can be made available on-line in a webinar format.

It was mentioned that Ed Moriarty would continue to be the lead co-chair of the Adjuster Training subcommittee for 2016 and into 2017, and that the subcommittee plans to begin meeting in May of this year for the purpose of identifying and beginning to write and prepare the next workers compensation adjuster training program. Anyone interested in participating in this very valuable, challenging, and rewarding activity should contact Fran Clark fran.clark@theclm.org, Jim Poerio, at the contact numbers above, or Mike Mattix at his email address, which is MMattix@federatedrural.com. Notice of meetings of the Adjuster Training subcommittee will be sent to all members who want to participate.

Present at the Workers' Compensation committee meeting was Tom Moore, who was one of the co-chairs last year, who described the work that the committee did in organizing the Adjuster Training Program, and how rewarding participation was, especially seeing the Program come to fruition and be approved by the Live Standards Training Committee.

There was a discussion about the Workers' Compensation Annual Committee Conference. This year's conference will take place in Atlanta, on May 18 and May 19. The sessions have been chosen and the CLM staff is working with the session presenters and speakers to finalize their programs. The conference will be part of a program that combines the Workers' Compensation committee with the Insurance Fraud and Product Liability committees, and a general Claims/Litigation track.

The members participating in the committee meeting also discussed the 2017 and beyond Workers' Compensation Committee conferences. A discussion took place regarding the possibility that the 2017 conference will be in Chicago and that Chicago may become the permanent location for future Workers' Compensation Committee conferences. Everyone present seemed to believe that both ideas were very good ones.

Also, Jim Poerio spoke out about the desire to expand the scope of the conference. We would like to have more sessions available for participants and conference attendees, and plan to begin organizing the 2017 Conference Committee as quickly as possible after the 2016 conference is completed. Future notices will be posted through the CLM Workers' Compensation committee pages for anyone interested in participating.

There was a discussion about the Webinar subcommittee. The Workers' Compensation Committee is committed to a September 28, 2016, Webinar but the specific topic has not yet been selected. Anyone interested in participating and presenting a Webinar, even if you need a co-presenter, or anyone who has an idea about a good Webinar topic, should contact the chairperson of the Webinar committee, who is Bob Hendershot. He can be reached at the following email address: rhendershot@evans-dixon.com.

There was a lengthy discussion about ideas for WC Magazine. One of the future articles in the magazine will be a roundtable discussion about a particular topic of interest. The specific topic and the participants will be identified and organized by Rich Lenkov. Anyone interested in participating in this, or anyone with an idea about a good roundtable topic should contact Rich Lenkov at the following email address: RLenkov@bdlfirm.com.

Once again, committee members were encouraged to volunteer and participate. Participation in a committee's activities is open to every interested member.

The committee's regular bi-monthly conference calls will resume in May. We hope to see many of you next month as well at the WC Conference in Atlanta.

Jim Poerio	jpoerio@pwlawinc.com
Mike Mattix	mmattix@federatedrural.com
Rich Lenkov	rlenkov@brycedowney.com
Andy Condrey	acondrey@grayinsco.com