

Minutes of January 9, 2008 Workers' Compensation Section Executive Committee

Location: Inn at Middletown. The meeting began at 5:46 PM.

Bob Enright introduced Chairman Mastropietro and Gardner Wright, who discussed the progress of the Commission's pain management protocol initiative.

Judge (formerly Commissioner) Robin Wilson spoke for a few minutes about her work in the Judicial Child Protection Unit in Middletown.

Mark Leighton gave the Treasurer's report in Tracey Green Cleary's absence. The section account presently has about \$18,000.

Bob Enright reported that Joe Passerretti is stepping down as editor-in-chief of Compensation Quarterly, although he will remain on the editorial board. Donna Civitello will be the new editor-in-chief. Bob expressed the Section's gratitude for the outstanding job Joe has done.

Bob Enright and Mark Leighton offered brief remarks about the very successful October section seminar, with special thanks to Mark, Diane Duhamel and the participating doctors for all of their work. The CLE Committee is working toward similar annual events each fall on medical issues. Cori-Lynn Webber, David Weil, Betsy Zaccardi and Mark Leighton are the members of the Committee. Cori-Lynn, chairperson of the upcoming March 7th seminar, described it as a four-hour program from 9-1, with two speakers on employment issues, and a focus on how employment statutes affect workers' compensation practice. There will also be 1.5 hours devoted to ethics. Angelo Sevarino and Betsy Zaccardi will discuss five different scenarios involving ethical issues.

Bob Enright read aloud a letter from Commissioner Metro thanking the section for his retirement dinner. Bob noted that both Commissioners Waldron and Paoletta will be retiring in March. Commissioner Waldron has indicated that he does not want a retirement party, and Bob Carter will speak to him regarding whether he would consider a joint party with Commissioner Paoletta, or a charitable donation on his behalf instead. Lawrence Morizio will approach Commissioner Paoletta about his preferences.

Luke Strunk gave his legislative report. This is a short session, February 6th to May 9th. New bills include a scarring bill, a 308a revision statute, and a revision to Sec. 31-301 to except workers' compensation appeals from the final judgment rule. The Executive Committee unanimously voted, upon motion by Bob Carter, and seconded by Cori-Lynn Webber, to support a statute which would eliminate the final judgment rule so that CRB decisions are immediately reviewable. Luke reported that the federal Medicare set-aside bill is stalled in committee.

Frank Costello reported on the twelfth Exotic Seminar, which will be held at the Sheraton in Portsmouth, New Hampshire May 1st to May 3rd. Presentations will include a discussion of workers' compensation in the context of Indian tribal law, a presentation on *Deschenes* and *Ricigliano*, a medical presentation on foot injuries, and a discussion led by Commissioner Vargas on ethics. Tim Welsh is organizing the golf outing for the seminar. The cost for the

seminar is \$250, rooms are \$161/night, and 30 rooms are reserved.

Mark Leighton reported that Chairman Mastropietro has indicated that internet access will not be made available to attorneys, at least presently, at Commission offices.

Frank May reported for the Certification Committee. The Standing and Executive Committees have encountered many obstacles at the CBA in administering the certification program following the departure of Donna Fiorentino. The CBA recently hired a new coordinator. Grading of the most recent exams will be completed by mid-January. There are now 50 certified specialists. The re-certification program is beginning for those who were certified five years ago. Frank asked for suggestions on changes in operating procedures; the Standing Committee will be proposing changes to the Rules Committee.

Upon motion by Rick Aiken, seconded by Diane Duhamel, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to change the name of the golf tournament to the Verrilli-Belkin Golf Tournament. The next tournament will occur the second week in September. In the recent past, the net proceeds have been divided equally between the Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare. Rick has been asked whether the Executive Committee would consider donating a portion of the proceeds to the Patricia Herms Fund, which is a fund providing emergency monies to women with cancer. The Committee deferred a vote on this request, pending receipt of more information about this Fund.

Diane Duhamel moved to adjourn, seconded by Victor Ferrante.

The meeting ended at 8:10. Submitted by Donna Civitello, Secretary.