



MWCIA

Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association

Newsletter

Bruce A. Tollefson, President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEW MWCIA SERVICE

The MWCIA is providing a new periodic newsletter to members including information on current activities of the Association. This newsletter is meant to be both informative to our members and useful in updating members on new and ongoing projects.

The focus of this first newsletter will be to outline the various working relationships which exist between the MWCIA and the other organizations which play a role in the Workers' Compensation industry in Minnesota. Since effective working relationships with these organizations are key to the MWCIA's success, we feel it necessary that our members fully understand how we work together.

We hope that you find this newsletter to be a welcome addition to the services which the MWCIA provides to its members. We welcome any comments or suggestions you have on this new service.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

The time has flown by quickly since my appointment as President of the MWCIA. I would be remiss in this first newsletter if I did not take the opportunity to thank the many individuals who have aided in my transition to heading the MWCIA. This transition was made much easier by my predecessor, John Hildebrandt, and the managers and staff of the MWCIA. These individuals have built a strong and very forward-thinking data service organization.

I look forward to continuing the goal of quality and cost efficient service to our members.

MWCIA PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

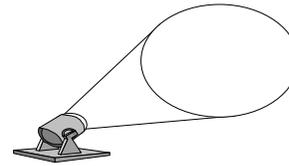
The Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) is well known for its reinsurance services to Minnesota insurers and self insurers; however, from our perspective, the WCRA is also a valuable partner in the work of the MWCIA. As a data service organization, the MWCIA is responsible for gathering and disseminating data about workers' compensation in Minnesota. The WCRA and the MWCIA share a long and close working relationship in this process to the betterment of our respective members, regulators and the entire workers' compensation system. WCRA staff who have been instrumental in forging this relationship are Jay Benanev, Carl Cummins, and Mary Johnson.

The Insurance Federation of Minnesota also plays a key role in Minnesota's workers' compensation system. Bob Johnson, along with Al Parsons, provide valuable information and support for workers' compensation, as well as the other insurance lines written in Minnesota. Both of these individuals have been very helpful to the MWCIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Another key responsibility of the MWCIA is completing the filing of plans, policy forms, and endorsements, and the annual Ratemaking Report on behalf of its members. The Department staff, particularly Tom Baker, Mary Lou Houde, and Tammy Lohmann, have been key to date effectively performing those functions.

The Department of Commerce and the MWCIA have been working on enhancing our current systems to more efficiently process filings and approvals. The goal of this program is two-fold.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE cont..**

First, the MWCIA wishes to advise the Department as early as possible of filings anticipated by the MWCIA. The Department's early review and comment on changes in forms and manuals will facilitate the timely adoption of the national changes in forms and manuals, and minimize any Minnesota exceptions which must be handled by carriers.

Second, our goal is to strengthen our relationship with the Commerce Department to be fully advised of any regulatory concerns or initiatives which may be of interest to our members. This dialogue allows the MWCIA, together with carriers and other concerned organizations, to discuss such issues and to comment on the practical implications of Commerce Department actions upon our members.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

The Department of Labor & Industry(DOLI)and the MWCIA operate a direct data link to assist in the job of insurance coverage verification and other critical data needs for DOLI. The MWCIA is currently working with Commissioner Gretchen Maglich, Kate Kimpan, and Brandon Miller of the Department staff on the Department's long term data gathering and review goals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 18th *Board of Directors Meeting and Annual MWCIA Golf Outing*
- October 22nd *Board of Directors Meeting*

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

In future reports to members we intend to focus on the activities of the various MWCIA departments and the services they provide to our members. In this report,our focus is on the Information Systems Department.

MWCIA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

As is the case with our members, the MWCIA is actively engaged in addressing Year 2000 issues. This work is in addition to on going operations and the MWCIA's work with other rating organizations on enhancements to our data handling systems.

The SPECTRUM project, a comprehensive system for data receipt, storage and handling by rating bureaus, is critical to this process. The SPECTRUM system is operating in Minnesota and is being implemented in several other states.

The Department's long term goal is to effectively facilitate the data filing needs of regulators and members. The MWCIA is committed to keeping abreast of the latest technology, including such developments as the recently implemented Carrier Electronic Data Interchange program.

We invite our members to visit our web site, <http://www.mwcia.org>, for updated information.

The newsletter is published periodically by the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association as a service to our member companies. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions on this publication please contact the MWCIA at 7701 France Avenue South, Suite 450, Edina, MN 55435 or call the Association at 612/897-1737.