



January 3, 2012

Happy New Year! As we start the New Year I want to say thank you for your continued support and membership in the MSIA.

At the December membership meeting, we said goodbye and thank you to Brad Wiggins, who left the Board of Directors and completed his term as President. We welcomed on five new directors to the Board in our continued efforts to draw from the vast wealth of knowledge among our membership. This brings the total number of directors to fifteen – the maximum allowed under our bylaws.

Also at the December meeting, we heard who had the most workers compensation claims among the four panelists (Medtronic, HealthPartners, Marvin Windows, and City of Saint Paul) and Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie's candid talk about his office and responsibilities.

While 2011 did not bring much in terms of legislative changes on the workers compensation front, there were a few case law and rule changes that the Board felt needed to be communicated to our membership immediately. You will have noticed that Suzanna Kennedy periodically sent out 'urgent' releases from the MSIA. The Board feels that these communications bring value to our members. We will continue to send out only urgent releases that have been approved by the Board to our members.

We are hoping to change legislation in 2012. In September we introduced our "Top 12" list for legislative changes and provided that list to the Chamber of Commerce.

The WCAC has already met with the trial bar and have had discussions that may lead to changes in attorney fee structure. We also proposed language to increase the waiting period in exchange for an increase in the average weekly wage. We should know more in January or early February as to whether a bill will come from these proposals. Please watch the Leonard, Street and Deinard website for updates!

Our Program Committee continues to plan exciting topics for our quarterly meetings that we hope meet your needs. Our March meeting will again be held at the North Oaks Country Club in the afternoon and is our annual 'membership recruiting' event. If you know of another company who is not yet a member of the MSIA, please ask them to consider joining.

We are trying a new location for our Fall meeting this year – the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN on September 27th and 28th. We hope to see everyone there this year as the program should be excellent! We continue to welcome your input for future meetings.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or thoughts that you have about the MSIA. I look forward to seeing each of you this year at our meetings!

Best wishes,

Sandra Bodensteiner
MSIA President