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Business Bulletin

January 2011

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

BWC Board of Directors

On Thursday, December 16th the BWC staff provided an Employer Programs Update to the Board members. The report compared participation statistics for Policy Years 2009 and 2010 for the eight discount programs BWC offers: Group Rating, Group Retrospective Rating, Individual Retrospective Rating, Deductible, EM Cap, One Claim, Drug-Free Safety and the \$15K Medical-Only.

The BWC Board of Directors next meeting will be Friday, January 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. During this meeting the agenda is scheduled to discuss revisions to the One Claim Program, changes to NCCI manual classifications, and Deductible Tables for Private Employers.

BWC Net Assets as of November 2010

BWC reported that as of November 30, 2010 their net assets were at \$4.8 billion, which is a \$0.6 million increase from November 30, 2009 of \$4.2 billion.

SAFETY NEWS

Sheakley Safety Supply ... Just a Click Away

We are excited to keep you updated on the progress of our NEW ON-LINE safety equipment store.

This new product launch, SHEAKLEY SAFETY SUPPLY, is being developed with you in mind and is guaranteed to be your best source to acquire quality, safety equipment for your workplace. You will have *over 5,000 safety items available to you with the best pricing available*. If you're unable to find a specific product that you have been accustomed to using, please let us know and we will be sure to have that item placed on our site.

We are dedicated to making sure that our safety store will be *your #1 safety equipment resource* to assist you in maintaining an accident free environment and reducing your safety budget for 2011.



Public Employer Risk Reduction Program (PERRP)

All public employers must submit their annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (300 AP) by February 1, 2011. For more information regarding this requirement please contact Jillian Hacker to discuss your OSHA Recordkeeping needs at 800-877-5055 x.1150 or jhacker@sheakley.com.

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – November

Ohio unemployment rate for November 2010 is 9.8%, down from 9.9% in October and 10.8% in November 2009.

The U.S. rate for December 2010 is down to 9.4% from 9.8% in November.

UI National Rate Update

In November UI rates fell in 15 states and remained the same in 14 states. Biggest declines in UI rates for November were in MI, 12.4% down from 12.8% in October, and in PA, 8.6% down from 8.8% in October.

Overall rates are beginning to creep down, but very slowly. Overall jobless claims have fallen to 388,000 applications for new unemployment benefits, the lowest point since the week of July 12, 2008 and down significantly from the peak weekly number of 651,000 in March of 2009. Unemployment applications below 425,000 are an indication of modest growth, but economists caution that until they fall below 375,000 or below per week we will not see a strong decline in unemployment.

Weekly Benefit Amounts for 2011

Number of Qualifying Dependents	Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount	Minimum Average Weekly Wage
0	\$387	\$774
1 – 2	\$470	\$940
3 +	\$524	\$1,048

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BWC Board of Directors Appointees Rejected

On Tuesday, December 21st Senate Republicans rejected the desired appointees of Governor Strickland for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors. The rejections were based on the belief that Governor-elect John Kasich should have the opportunity to elect the appointments. The four appointments for new terms were: Charles A. Bryan, Alison L. Falls, James W. Harris, and Chairman William Lhota.

Department of Education – Academic Content Standards

In June 2010 the State Board of Education approved academic standards for English, mathematics, science and social studies. The curricula for the first phase of the academic content standards are due in March 2011, once approved the curricula would go into effect for the 2014-15 school year. The Ohio Department of Education has begun collecting surveys for the draft model curricula for science, social studies, English and math to determine how effective the guides would assist teachers in understanding and implementing the new standards. The final survey results will be collected this month and the ODE will revise the model curricula based on the results.

House Bill 330 – School District Purchasing (Patten)

The House Bill (introduced October 2009) authorizes the director of transportation to include school districts in purchase contracts for machinery, materials, supplies, and other articles. The House Bill was signed by Governor Strickland on December 23, 2010 and becomes effective 90 days from the signing.

To learn more about these changes and how they will impact your business, please contact our office at 513-326-4675 x2044 or visit our website at www.sheakley.com.