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Business Bulletin

February 2011

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

BWC Administration

On January 10th Steve Buehrer was sworn in as Administrator/CEO of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. During Administrator Buehrer's speech he stated to Ohio workers' compensation representatives and various others that "your voice will be heard, input will be expected and important in making workers' compensation a compliment to Ohio's overall business climate."

Administrator Buehrer is behind the Kasich administration to reverse the trend of businesses and people fleeing Ohio and believes that "BWC is a key component in helping turn that around."

Ohio workers' compensation rate reform initiative will be a primary focus for the new administration to offer the lowest possible premium rate for all employers. It is anticipated that the level of benefits that BWC awards injured workers will be reviewed as BWC has been criticized for the "overly generous and expensive" benefits offered to injured workers.

BWC Board of Directors

On January 13th the BWC Board of Directors meeting was cancelled for the 21st, due to four seats being currently vacant. The BWC Board of Directors Nominating Committee is expected to meet before the February scheduled meetings to provide member recommendations to Governor Kasich. Governor Kasich will also appoint a Board chairman before the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting on February 24th.

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, was 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 2010.



Public Employer Risk Reduction Program (PERRP)

Public Employer's annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (300 AP) should have been submitted to BWC 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 December 2010 was 9.6%, down from 9.8% in November and 10.8% in December 2009.

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

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

House Bill 21 – Community Schools (Combs)

The House Bill (introduced January 19th) is proposing to allow new internet or computer based community schools to open under certain conditions, to require the use of student performance data in evaluating teachers and principals for licensure, and to qualify Teach for America participants for a professional educator license.

House Bill 30 – School Funding (Gardner)

The House Bill (introduced January 18th) is requesting to eliminate spending and reporting requirements related to the school funding system, to abolish the School Funding Advisory Council, to eliminate the requirements that school districts offer all-day kindergarten, to eliminate the requirement that school districts establish family and civic engagement teams, and to reduce to three years the period covered by financial forecasts of school districts, community schools, and STEM schools.

House Bill 36 – Calamity Days (Kozlowski, Carey)

The House Bill (introduced January 19th) is requesting to excuse up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the 2010-2011 school years and to broaden schools authority to make up calamity days by lengthening remaining days in the school year.

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.