



513.771.2277 Phone
800.877.2053 Phone

One Sheakley Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

Sheakley.com

Business Bulletin

April 2011

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

[Informed Ohio Business Workers' Comp Forum](#)

The Informed Ohio Business Workers' Comp Forum was formed on LinkedIn for businesses to make sure everyone is up to date on workers' compensation issues facing employers and employees in Ohio. This forum encourages its members to share experiences, expertise and also to ask questions related to workers' compensation rules, regulations and policies for businesses in Ohio. To join the forum click here <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Informed-Ohio-Business-Workers-Comp-3810852?mostPopular=&gid=3810852>.

[Business Courier 2011 Fast 55](#)

On March 24th the Business Courier named the finalists for the 2011 Fast 55. This award recognizes the fastest-growing private firms in Greater Cincinnati. Finalists were selected according to revenue growth and Sheakley was named a finalist from a field of more than 85 entries. On June 9th Sheakley will be honored with the other finalists for this outstanding accomplishment.

[BWC Board of Directors](#)

On March 25th, the BWC Board of Directors assembled to address the committee proposals. The Actuarial Committee proposed changes to the Private Employer Deductible Program allowing BWC the option to deny aggregate stop-loss to employers if it is discovered that the premium discount offered to the employer would exceed their maximum aggregate stop-loss liability.

Aggregate Stop-Loss is an option that allows an employer to pay a deductible amount per claim and have a policy year maximum. The stop-loss option is eligible to employers who participate in deductible levels of \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or \$200,000.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to the proposed Deductible Program change and the new rules regarding the aggregate stop-loss will take effect immediately.

[BWC Net Assets](#)

The BWC Chief Fiscal & Planning Officer announced that the net assets had increased \$310 million in February resulting in net assets of \$5.3 billion. Since February 28, 2010, BWC net assets have increased \$1.5 billion.

BWC Deadlines

Policy Year 2011 Group Retrospective Rating participation deadline is Friday, April 29th.

One Claim Program applications are due Friday, April 29th.

Individual Retrospective Rating applications are due Friday, April 29th.

Deductible Program applications are due Friday, April 29th.

SAFETY NEWS

Safety Council Program

On March 31st Administrator Buehrer announced his intention to continue to expand the Safety Council Rebate Incentive Program. The program allows employers to earn rebates on their workers' comp premiums by participating in their local safety council and reducing workplace injuries.

Participating employers can receive a 2 percent rebate for attending a specific number of safety council programs and receive an additional 2 percent rebate for demonstrating a reduction in the frequency and/or severity of workplace incidents. BWC's proposal will continue the program and expand the participation to group-rated employers. The program will allow group-rated employers the opportunity to earn a 2 percent rebate for demonstrating a reduction in their frequency and/or severity of workplace incidents.

The new Safety Council program was announced by Buehrer at the BWC Safety Congress and will soon be proposed to the BWC Board of Directors for their approval.

Drug-Free Safety Program

The application deadline to participate in the DFSP beginning July 1, 2011 is April 29th.

DFSP training deadline for initial year participants is April 29th.

DFSP Webinars

Sheakley understands the concerns of employers regarding the new Drug-Free Safety Program. The BWC designed the program to assist employers in preventing on-the-job injuries and illness by integrating drug-free efforts into their workplace safety culture. This accident prevention strategy will help employers achieve cost-saving benefits, as well as strengthening their overall safety program. Sheakley is holding informational webinars on the following dates (April 13th at 3pm, April 14th at 1pm, and April 15th at 9am) to offer employers a better understanding of the value of this program and how it will benefit their existing safety plan. During these sessions, attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and determine if this program is right for their company! To register for any of the informational webinars please email safety@sheakley.com.

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – February

Ohio unemployment rate for February 2011 was 9.2%, down from 9.3% in January and 10.6% in February 2010.

The U.S. rate for February is down to 8.9% from 9.0% in January and 9.7% in February 2010.

HUMAN RESOURCE NEWS

Client Training Seminars

Sheakley's Human Resource department will be holding training sessions at our corporate office training room throughout 2011. Please contact Kym Martin at 513-728-6668 or kmartin@sheakley.com for more information or to sign up. Seating is limited, so call today!

May Seminar:

11th – “Developing Leaders” (9am to 12pm)

June Seminar:

6th – NextLevel's Sales & Growth Mastery Seminar Series #2 (1 to 2:30pm)

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

House Bill 123 – BWC Budget (Hottinger)

The House Bill (introduced February 24th) will allow the Administrator of Workers' Compensation to waive criteria certain public employers must satisfy to become self-insuring employers; require bills for medical and vocational rehabilitation services in claims that are ultimately denied to be paid from the Surplus Fund Account under specified circumstances; make other changes to Workers' Compensation Law; to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and for the Workers' Compensation Council for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013; and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's and the Council's programs.

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.