

May 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>.

[BWC Board of Directors](#)

On April 29th, the BWC Board of Directors assembled to review the proposed 15.12% average increase to Public Employer Sate Agency base rates for the 2011 Policy Year. The rate increase is projected to collect an additional \$66.6 million in premiums. The Board is expected to vote on the proposal at the end of this month.

[BWC Net Assets](#)

The BWC Chief Fiscal & Planning Officer announced that the net assets had decreased \$34 million in March resulting in net assets of \$5.29 billion.

[BWC Deadlines](#)

Settlement deadline for Public Employers is Friday May 13th.

Payroll reports and 45% of premiums are due Sunday May 15th, the remaining 55% will be due Thursday September 1st.

SAFETY NEWS

[Safety Council Program](#)

On March 31st, Administrator Buehrer announced his intention to continue and 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

Ohio Unemployment Rate – March

Ohio unemployment rate for March 2011 was 8.9%, down from 9.2% in February and 10.5% in March 2010.

The U.S. rate for March is down to 8.8% from 8.9% in February and 9.7% in March 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!

June Seminar:

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

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Senate Bill 15 Dropout Programs (Turner, N.)

The Senate Bill (introduced February 1st) will require the State Board of Education to recommend performance standards for dropout programs operated by school districts.

Senate Bill 116 School Employees (Seitz, B., Cates, G.)

The Senate Bill (introduced March 10th) would permit non-Civil Service school district boards to terminate positions of district transportation employees for reasons of economy and efficiency and to contract with independent agents to provide transportation services as long as certain conditions are satisfied. On May 3rd the Education Committee voted to refer the bill to the House.

Senate Bill 118 Body Mass Screenings (Cates, G.)

The Senate Bill (introduced March 15th) would make schools' implementation of body mass index screenings optional. The bill would eliminate the waiver requirement and make the screenings an "opt-in" program.

Senate Bill 127 School Bullying (Schiavoni, J.)

The Senate Bill (introduced March 22nd) proposes to enact the "Jessica Logan Act" to require that public school bullying policies prohibit bullying by electronic means and address certain acts that occur off school property and to require staff training on the bullying policy. The bill completed all testimony in its 3rd hearing on May 3rd.

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.