

September 2010

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS

### BWC Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors approved BWC's proposal to keep the current private employer's maximum group rating discount at 65% for the rating year beginning July 1, 2011. The board also approved the recommendation to maintain the break-even factors that are in place for the July 1, 2011 rating year. These approved recommendations will allow companies who have earned the maximum group discount of 65% to receive an actual discount of 51% when the break-even factor is applied.

The BWC Board of Directors next meeting will be Friday, September 24, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. We anticipate that the board will be voting on proposed application deadline changes to several BWC programs such as: One Claim Program, Individual Retrospective Rating and Group Retrospective Rating.

### BWC Net Assets as of July 31<sup>st</sup>

BWC reported that as of July 31, 2010 their net assets were at \$4.3 billion, which is a \$1.3 billion increase from July 31, 2009 of \$3 billion.

## SAFETY NEWS

### Drug-Free Safety Program Participants

Private Employers who have signed up to participate in the Drug-Free Safety Program Basic or Advanced Level with an effective date of July 1, 2010 are responsible to complete the Accident Analysis On-Line Training for Supervisors by September 30, 2010. This on-line training requirement will give you the comprehensive accident analysis tools to prevent and/or minimize the occurrence of future accidents, injuries and illnesses. Please go to [www.bwclearningcenter.com](http://www.bwclearningcenter.com) to complete course and print certificate for your records.

Employers participating in the Advanced Level of DFSP are also responsible for submitting a Safety Action Plan by September 30, 2010. The action plan needs to communicate how the employer plans on focusing on the gaps identified in the safety review during the program year.

### BWC One Claim Program Participants

Employer's participating in the One Claim Program recently received a change to their education requirements. The accident-prevention coordinator is no longer required to complete a 6-hour online training course each year of participation. The employer will be required to attend a one-day, "classroom style course" through BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene during each year of participation.

### 100% EM Capping Program Participants

Employers who are enrolled in the Capping Program and have a report due date of March 31, 2011 must complete their BWC Step-6 course no later than March 31, 2011.

As a BWC approved sponsor, Sheakley is offering two course alternatives to meet the BWC Step-6 requirement: Safety Building Blocks and Supporting Accident Free Environments (S.A.F.E.). The course fee of \$99.00 will include lunch, attendance and a 2-year American Safety & Health Institute Certification Card for either CPR or First Aid.

The initial course offerings start in October so please contact Sheakley Health and Safety Services at 800.877.5055 ext. 1150 today to get registered!

### Safety Building Blocks

**October 7, 2010**

**Sheakley Uniservice  
One Sheakley Way  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246**

9:00am – 10:00am	Hazard Communication
10:00am – 11:00am	Ergonomics for Everyone
11:00am – 12:00pm	Preventive Safety through Security
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 4:00pm	First Aid in the Workplace*
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Questions

**October 27, 2010**

**Hampton Inn & Suites  
7074 Engle Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44130**

9:00am – 10:00am	Hazard Communication
10:00am – 11:00am	Ergonomics for Everyone
11:00am – 12:00pm	Preventive Safety through Security
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 4:00pm	First Aid in the Workplace*
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Questions

### S.A.F.E. - Supporting Accident Free Environments

**February 10, 2011**

**Baymont Inn  
2600 Lauren Lane  
Northwood, Ohio 43619**

9:00am-10:00am	Domino Effect of Substance Abuse in the Workplace
10:00am-11:00am	Importance of Accident Analysis
11:00am-12:00pm	OSHA 300 - What you Need to Know
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-4:00pm	CPR/AED Training*
4:00pm-4:30pm	Questions

**February 16, 2011**

**Holiday Inn Express  
3951 Jackpot Road  
Grove City, Ohio 43123**

9:00am-10:00am	Domino Effect of Substance Abuse in the Workplace
10:00am-11:00am	Importance of Accident Analysis
11:00am-12:00pm	OSHA 300 - What you Need to Know
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-4:00pm	CPR/AED Training*
4:00pm-4:30pm	Questions

### Drug-Free Workplace Participants

Employers currently participating in the DFWP have a progress report (U-142) due September 30, 2010.

## UNEMPLOYMENT NEWS

### Ohio Unemployment Rate – July

Ohio unemployment rate for July 2010 is 10.3%, a slight decrease from the 10.6% in July 2009. The U.S. rate for July 2010 is at 9.5%.

Economic indicators are still showing sluggish growth, 1.6% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010, with a slight .2% increase in incomes nationally and a .4% consumer spending increase. Without job growth there is not expected to be any serious decrease in the 9.5% national unemployment rate for several years. “It takes stronger growth-around 5 percent for a full year to drive down the unemployment rate by 1 percentage point.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### Senate Bill 238 – Immigrant Workers’ Compensation (Seitz)

The Senate Bill (introduced March 2010) prohibits illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and benefits under Ohio’s Workers’ Compensation Law. The bill was referred to the Insurance Committee on June 1, 2010. No hearings have taken place since the bill was referred.

**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](http://www.sheakley.com).**