

Presidents Message

Amie C. Peters

WILG reached 1,100 members this last week. The growth of our organization over the last few years marks an important milestone in workers' compensation. It demonstrates workers' compensation is an issue that reaches beyond boards and into fundamental obligations of the states to protect its people. Throughout the country, workers are seeing the same trends negatively impacting their rights following a work place injury. And attorneys, like you, are standing up and trying to stem the tide by breaking geographic limitations.

By joining WILG, attorneys are helping us collect information on the statewide trends impacting your clients. At the beginning and end of each legislative session, WILG sends out a survey to its members looking for worker issues anticipated to be addressed legislatively. Our research director, Elliot Schreur then takes each response and collates them into national trends. These national trends guide the organization in developing CLEs, reaching out to states dealing with reform and guiding the national discussion through earned press. Please participate in the 2018 survey when it is sent.

In both 2016 & 2017, WILG identified a trend involving the increasing number of successful constitutional challenges to workers' compensation limitations. This has lead WILG to organize a national symposium on workers' compensation constitutional challenges. We are reaching out to national speakers to help you battle workers' compensation reforms using the strength of your state constitution. Please join us for the symposium on April 19th, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

WILG is also reaching out across the country and going into the states. We are providing speakers to trial lawyer and workers' compensation associations to make sure attorneys around the country are aware of what is happening nationally. Earlier this month, I joined executive director, Jennifer Comer, at the Governmental Affairs Conference of the National Association of Trial Lawyer Executives. This gave us the opportunity to discuss medical treatment guidelines, changes in access to justice and the gig-economy with as many different associations as possible. Also this week, WILG is covering the East Coast. In New Jersey, I presented before the New Jersey Association for Justice's Board of Governors meeting and its Workers' Compensation CLE. At the same time, Past-President Mike Gruber and Treasure Bill Smith will be addressing the South Carolina Injured Workers' Advocates at their Amelia Island Conference.

Thank you to President-Elect Tom Holder and the members of the membership committee for working closely with Membership and Marketing Director Kaleigh Hickey to reach our record membership numbers. We want to keep up the growth of this great organization. But we need your help. If you know someone who should join WILG, please pass along this link www.wilg.org/membership. They can join now and get the rest of 2017 free. If you are looking for speakers, reach out to Jennifer Comer so we can help. If you have ideas for improving our legislative tracking, please let us know as well. We are strong because we all work together.