

# COMP BITS

## OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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- **Time is running out for group participation! Please call ASAP if you would like to enroll for a 53% discount!**
- Group-Rating renewals have been sent out to current clients, and invitations are being sent out currently. You may have dual eligibility, so you may receive both a Traditional Group-Rating invitation and/or a Group Retro invitation. Please contact our office with any questions!
- **September 29, 2017** BWC will be making several significant changes including:
  - Time limit to file a claim changes from 2 years to 1 year following the date of injury.
  - Time period to file an appeal with the Ohio Court of Appeals after the Industrial Commission's final decision has been extended from 60 days to 150 days.
  - BWC can now dismiss, instead of just suspend, applications for permanent partial disability when the injured worker fails to attend a state scheduled exam.
  - BWC may waive the 90-day exam for good cause, however, employers may object and BWC will schedule the exam. BMSO recommends not waiving the exams.
  - BWC will set the full weekly wage for any employee whose wage cannot be determined at 33.3% of the statewide average weekly wage.
- **September 30, 2017**, is BWC's "snapshot date" for capturing claim costs to calculate 2018 experience.
- **November 13, 2017** is the group-rating enrollment deadline. Please be sure to return your enrollment forms by this date to ensure placement in our groups.
- A recent Ohio Supreme Court decision clarified what is and is not appealable to the Court of Common Pleas. In *Clendenin v. Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, et al.*, the Supreme Court stated that appeals to the Court of Common Pleas are only allowed in cases where the Industrial Commission makes a determination as to the right of the injured worker to participate or to continue to participate in the Workers' Compensation Fund. Another important point in this case is that employer's should continue to monitor those claims that involve the substantial aggravation of a pre-existing condition, and if necessary, exercise their right to have the claimant examined to determine if the substantially aggravated condition has returned to a pre-injury status.
- OSHA has announced the Top 10 most cited workplace safety violations for 2017:
  1. Fall protection; General requirements (1926.501) – 6072
  2. Hazard communication (1910.1200) – 4176
  3. Scaffolding (1926.451) – 3288
  4. Respiratory protection (1910.134) – 3097
  5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) - 2241
  6. Ladders (1926.1053) – 2241
  7. Powered industrial trucks (1910.178) – 2162
  8. Machine Guarding (1910.212) – 1933
  9. Fall protection; training requirements (1926.503) - 1523
  10. Electrical (1910.305) - 1405
- ***Our group-rating program has been rated #1 again for the sixteenth consecutive year by The Ohio Growth Association, The Ohio Manufacturing Council and the Mid-Ohio Oil & Gas Association. Qualifying employers are able to save 53% off their annual workers' comp premiums.***
- **CALL US FOR ALL OF YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS!**
- Questions or comments? Email us at [bcarr@bmsoinc.com](mailto:bcarr@bmsoinc.com) or call us at 330-856-9213. We would love to hear from you!
- To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
- ❖ **Please note:** BMSO will co-host a program on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. featuring Jon Husted, Ohio gubernatorial candidate. Mr. Husted will be talking about the need for Ohio tax reform. Seating is very limited, however, if you would like to attend call us ASAP at (330) 856-9213 to make your reservation. The cost is \$10 for the event which will be held at Avalon Inn in Warren, OH.