



September 2004

# OAHU HealthLines

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## Region III Meeting in Dearborn

Many local chairs will be traveling to Dearborn next month to continue training on a regional level. The Region III Meeting will be held October 6-7 at the Dearborn Inn. Anyone interested in attending should contact Steve Selinsky, [steveselinsky@ppom.com](mailto:steveselinsky@ppom.com).

## State Officers to Visit YOUR Local!

The Ohio Executive Board will be visiting your local association this year in an attempt to share the information learned on a national level as well as meet new members, and bring legislative issues to a forefront.

Look for your local newsletter to announce the date in your association.

## Congratulations to Past President Randy Ayers

Congratulations are in order for Past President Randy Ayers of Columbus as the winner of the prestigious NAHU distinguished Service Award in Baltimore last June. The award is based on health underwriters contributions as well as community service.



*Kathy Hughes, President*

## As a New OAHU Year Begins...

Greetings to the OAHU members. Hopefully you have all had an enjoyable summer and are ready to get back to the business of Health Insurance. We are looking to have an eventful year with lots of activity on various issues. We had some terrific events this summer like the National Convention in Baltimore. The waterfront in Baltimore was a beautiful backdrop for this year's venue. The Ohio members were well represented by the locals and it was an informative and worthwhile event.

Another meeting held this Summer was the Leadership Training in Columbus. It was time well spent on prioritizing the issues we face in the coming year and putting a plan in place to accomplish the goals we set for the association.

This year we face some monumental issues as Health Insurance professionals. We all need to get involved in what will be a battle to make sure we are able to continue in our chosen fields. There is opposition to this on all fronts and none of us can afford to stand by and do nothing. Please do your part by helping in some way even if that is just going to the polls in November and voting for your chosen candidates. It is times like these that make your membership in this association a great asset to you. Where else can you get the valuable information given to you other than the National Association of Health Underwriters and the local associations? Who else will be on the front lines speaking on your behalf? These are questions that I know all of you have the answers for and you prove it by your membership in this association. Please urge other Health Insurance professionals to join so that they can become informed members also. Together we can become an even stronger voice.

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## 2004 Ohio Calendar



Board Meetings and  
Legislative Council Meetings:  
September 16, 2004  
October 21, 2004  
November 18, 2004  
December 16, 2004

All above meetings are held at 2600  
Corporate Exchange Blvd. in Columbus



## OAHU Executive Board

.Kathy Hughes . . . . . President  
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## So, You Think That a Single Payer System is a Long Way Off, or Just a Misconception?

Think again. A group called The Single Payer Action Network of Ohio (website: [www.spanohio.org](http://www.spanohio.org)) organized by different labor unions (such as the AFL-CIO, Steel Workers, such as Food & Commercial Workers) for the purpose of promoting a single payer healthcare system in the State of Ohio has taken the first steps in their goal to get their initiative on the ballot (most likely in 2005). SPANOHIO has filed a summary of the proposed law with Ohio Attorney General, Jim Petro, who has approved the language of the bill. SPANOHIO can now move on to Step 2. Step 2 requires them to collect 96,870 valid signatures from registered voters (which is 3% of those who voted in the last gubernatorial election). How difficult do you think it will be to collect 96,870 signatures in a union State such as Ohio???

Once they've obtained the appropriate number of signatures, the bill goes to the Legislature, who then has 4 months to pass the bill. If the bill is not passed in 4 months (which is likely), then the proponents need to gather another 96,870 signatures to put the proposed law before the voters.

You will be amazed at the provisions of this potential piece of legislation. I encourage you to look at their website and read the actual text of the bill and to see who is supporting this effort (before you go to the polls in November). Single payer legislation was defeated in Oregon and we can do the same here, but we need your help. The Legislative Committee cannot do this alone. This is a team effort and you're our team.

You'll be hearing more from us as to how you can help with this grassroots efforts when the time comes. In the meantime, please arm yourself with the facts!

Carol Steele, Legislative Committee Chairperson  
Dave Kross, Legislative Committee Co-Chairperson

This fall, reap the benefits of attending BWC's Workers' Compensation University (WCU) at a location near you.



The fall 2004 WCU, Ohio's largest workers' comp conference, boasts a bumper crop of new, in-depth seminars focusing on cost-containment strategies and workplace safety initiatives. The full-day sessions are great for first-time WCU attendees or as a detailed follow-up to the sessions BWC sponsored in the spring.

**And admission is free!**

A variety of seminars will help you gather the vital information you need to run a safe, well-organized workers' compensation program. Employers can learn effective ways to protect their employees and manage claims; the medical community can discover new methods for returning injured workers to work, how to use our Web site, **ohiobwc.com**, to save time and money, and much more.

WCU also provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with BWC and Industrial Commission of Ohio (IC) experts, and visit the expo area to discover the latest products and services — all in one convenient location.

“The speakers are very knowledgeable in the subject matter. Issues are addressed with organization and clarity. This event would be highly beneficial and recommended for anyone who has an affiliation with BWC.”

– Sabrina Groth,  
Intake coordinator,  
Ohio Employee  
Health Partnership

“It is a terrific opportunity to meet and talk to BWC personnel, and most managed care organizations have a representative available as well. I highly recommend WCU. My staff and I would not miss it.”

– Carolyn Martin,  
Account rep/owner,  
CXM Inc.

## Who should attend

- Attorneys
- Health-care providers
- Human resources professionals
- Injured worker representatives
- Labor associations
- Medical billing staff
- Public employers
- Rehabilitation specialists
- Safety and risk managers
- State agencies
- Workers' comp program coordinators
- Anyone who wants to learn more about workers' comp

## You deserve some credit

The general session and selected seminars qualify for Step 6 credit of BWC's 10-Step Business Plan. If you received partial Step 6 credit at WCU this past spring, the fall WCU gives you the opportunity to complete your requirements.

In addition, many seminars offered this fall will be submitted for contact hours, continuing education units, continuing legal education and continuing medical education.

## How to register

Beginning in August, log on to [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com) to register online for WCU. If you do not have Internet access, call **1-800-466-6292**. Watch your mail for additional updates and information.

## September

9 Dayton

Dayton Convention Center

14 Akron

John S. Knight Center

16 Cleveland

Cleveland Convention Center

20 Columbus

Columbus Convention Center

23 Toledo

SeaGate Convention Centre

27, 28 Cincinnati

Sharonville Convention Center

**General session  
begins at 8:30 a.m.**

## Exhibit at WCU

Maximize your marketing dollars by showcasing your products and services at Ohio's largest workers' compensation conference. WCU attracts thousands of attendees each year. Don't miss your chance to reach these potential customers. For more information on exhibiting, log on to [ohiobwc.com](http://ohiobwc.com).