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## **2009 TNSIA Accomplishments**

1) Participated in drafting and worked with the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce in getting four Bills passed in the 2009 Legislative sessions which are beneficial to employers. The four bills are as follows:

a. SB 1574 deals with the *Overstreet* decision and allows us to communicate with the authorized treating physician under certain conditions.

b. SB 1909 places very specific restrictions on the ability to recover when injured during a recreational activity.

c. SB 2162 makes it clear that an employee who is an illegal alien may not recover more than 1.5 times his impairment rating.

d. SB 1567 states that if an employer gets bought out by another company and retains the employee at the same or greater pay, the employee is not entitled to reopen his case under T.C.A. §50-6-241(a).

Just as importantly, worked with Tennessee Chamber of Commerce to insure that no bills that would increase costs to employers were passed.

2) Drafted Legislation for 2010 Legislative Session, including the following:

a. Bill allowing us to close medicals in certain circumstances.

b. Bill more clearly defining repetitive motion injuries.

c. Bill dealing with the *Hartco Flooring* case. This bill prohibits an employee from filing for reconsideration when the

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pay the employee is receiving at the time of trial is the same or greater than the employee was receiving at the time of the injury.

d. Bill dealing with reconsideration when the employees take a cut in pay due to economic conditions or when the employer is forced by economic conditions to temporarily cut hours.

e. Bill dealing with placing limits on pain management.

### 3) Welcomed 5 New Board Members

- Goodyear Tire - Randy Triplett
- Ingram Industries - John Hayes
- International Paper - Penny Humphrey
- Johnson Controls - Ronald Jones
- McKee Foods Corp. - Micheline Parkey

4) Hosted 3rd Annual TNSIA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee with 125 attendees.

5) 2009 Year End Bank Account Balance = \$61,198.00 generated through membership dues and the TNSIA Annual Conference.

6) Met with TN Department of Commerce & Insurance coordinating regarding bond requirements and other issues of importance to our members.

7) Submitted position letter, and attended public hearing on proposed rules regarding utilization review and case management.

8) Traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas with the TN Department of Commerce & Insurance with a view toward helping to shape any guaranty fund that the TN Department of Commerce & Insurance might put forth.

9) Submitted Amicus Brief, and participated in oral arguments, to the Tennessee Supreme Court regarding putting limitation on when telecommuters can be considered to be "on the job."

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10) Submitted Amicus Brief to the TN Workers' Compensation Appeals Panel in support of the Tennessee Medical Impairment Rating Registry. This case involved a judge totally ignoring the doctor's opinion from the Tennessee Medical Impairment Rating Registry.

11) Leadership was contacted by *The Tennessean* newspaper, and leadership provided an op ed piece which was published in *The Tennessean* in support of a bill limiting coverage for recreational injuries.