

Committee on Group Insurance Programs (COGIP)
2008 Year-End Assessment

Background

COGIP is composed of 14 attorney members with expertise and experience in insurance and insurance law, in dealing with brokers and insurance carriers and in understanding insurance policies and the business aspects of insurance particularly group and/or association plans. The committee acts as a counselor and advisor to the Board of Governors. Currently State Bar sponsored group insurance programs include: Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Life, Group Disability Income and Group Long Term Disability, Workers' Compensation and Long Term Care. The charge of the committee is as follows:

1. Studies and makes recommendations on new, member group insurance programs to be sponsored by the State Bar and proposes changes in existing programs; recommends actuarial and other consulting studies as needed.
2. In making recommendations, considers premium rates, benefits, limitations, exclusions and other contract provisions in relation to the needs of the members of the State Bar generally and provisions designed to achieve program stability.
3. Work with the administrator/broker, carrier, General Counsel's office and designated State Bar staff to prepare contracts for new programs and revisions to existing programs.
4. Monitor ongoing approved programs and reviews sales literature for all approved programs on an ongoing basis.
5. Provide legal advice to the Board of Governors concerning insurance law aspects of its recommendations.
6. Perform such other functions relevant to the committee's subject area as the Board of Governors may from time to time assign.
7. Make recommendations and assist on request, the Board of Governors for ways and means of increasing non-dues revenue.

2008 Year End Assessment

The following is a summary of COGIP'S activities in 2008 that furthered its charge:

- o The committee held four meetings, including an overnight planning session in April 2008.

Market Review

- The committee continues to monitor the insurance market to ensure the availability of coverage to members and adequacy of policy features for all benefit programs. On an ongoing basis, the committee reviews sales and promotional material for all the approved programs.

Life Insurance

- New Admittees were issued “free” life insurance at a \$50,000 benefit level for the third year in 2008. This program provides coverage to new members at no cost for the first 6 months of membership to the State Bar.
- Effective March 1, 2008 members insured in the franchise plan were given an additional 5% premium credit.

Workers Compensation

- The committee evaluated responses to an RFP and recommended Marsh Affinity as the broker/administrator for the sponsored program. In April 2008, the State Bar terminated sponsorship of the program provided by State Compensation Insurance Fund. The Hartford will replace the State Compensation Insurance Fund and the new program is anticipated to launch April 2009.
- Members will benefit from a premium reduction of approximately 30% compared to the program provided by the State Fund. It is anticipated that this premium reduction will increase participation in the program.

Employment Practices Liability

- An RFP for a sponsored program was issued. The committee will review proposals and make recommendations during the first quarter of 2009.

Member Recruitment

- The committee lost two long-time, esteemed members this year. Members continue to actively seek new members with the appropriate insurance expertise.

Revenue

- The sponsored group insurance programs generated \$861,000 in 2008. These funds were used to support the Member Service Call center.
- The 2008 operational costs were \$40,925.