

Biz Briefs

ISSUE FORUM: Director notes rising Workers' Comp Costs



Several Associated Industries Retro/Safety employees were in attendance at the October 21, 2009, Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce Issue Forum, with speaker Judy Schurke, Director of the WA State Department of Labor and Industries.

Noting several interesting observations regarding the Spokane area, Schurke offered, "Jobs tend to be a lagging indicator because of some of the things you've done in terms of technology and other industries, Spokane could lead us out of a recession."

That was the good news. The bad news: "When you start recovery, and people go back into the workplace, you get more injuries...you will be dealing with people who are less experienced."

A major topic voiced at the Forum was the proposed average rate increase of 7.6% for Workers' Compensation Insurance. If you would like to provide testimony on the issue, you can submit written comments via email through November 7, 2009. Send your comments to Ronald Moore, Employer Program Manager at MOOA235@Lni.wa.gov, or c/o Ronald Moore at Department of Labor & Industries, P.O. Box 44140, Olympia, WA 98504-4140.