

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

R. Paul Childress, Jr., Chair

The Special Committee on Personal Insurance for Members continued to address the challenges raised by the transition from an “experienced rated” medical insurance plan to the Trigon “value added” plan. The committee evaluated the position of the Virginia State Bar in the health insurance market and evaluated the value to the members of the bar’s health insurance plan with Trigon.

The committee retained AON, a nationally recognized health insurance consultant. AON outlined the market for health insurance, the available providers of health insurance, and, within that context, advised the committee on the Trigon “value added” plan. AON confirmed that the Trigon plan is still the best value for bar members.

One of the other issues before the committee was the question of whether the bar required an endorsed broker and, if so, the solicitation by Request for Proposal for a bar endorsed broker. As part of its evaluation, AON recommended that the bar continue with an endorsed broker. AON was retained to assist the committee in evaluating responses to the Request for Proposal from potential brokers. Responses were anticipated in August of 2002.

Trigon reported that, following the change from the “experience rated” to the “value added” plan, 64.1% of the bar members remain in the endorsed health insurance plan. This number is somewhat understated—many members switched from the bar-endorsed plan to similar Trigon “value added” plans. Trigon advised us that they calculate that 78% of the lawyers in the bar plan remained insured by Trigon.

The other products offered by the bar—life, dental, disability and business overhead insurance plans—performed extremely well this year. The committee offered significant premium holidays for some of these products. Enthusiasm for these plans continued.

I would like to express my appreciation to Vice Chair Gary Lonergan, Mary Dalton Baril, James H. Ford, Gail Diane Jaspen, Stephen C. Mince, Larry S. Wiesen and Jon D. Huddleston for their participation and commitment to the work of the committee. I would also like to thank VSB Executive Director Tom Edmonds and Deputy Executive Director Mary Yancey Spencer for their efforts on behalf of the committee.

