

76th Annual SAWCA Convention



July 29 - August 2, 2024
Hotel Effie, Sandestin, FL



Welcome To SAWCA's 76th Annual Convention



On behalf of your SAWCA leadership, welcome to the coastal paradise of Miramar Beach, Florida. We gather at the beautiful Hotel Effie Sandestin for the 76th Annual SAWCA Convention. Nestled along the Emerald Coast, Hotel Effie offers upscale comfort, amenities, and convenient access to local attractions.

We are superbly situated near the resort Village of Baytowne Wharf, where you can enjoy world-class dining, shopping, and vibrant nightlife. Whether exploring the pristine beaches, engaging in water sports, or unwinding at the hotel's rooftop pool, Sandestin is a treasure trove of Floridian delights. The area's famous sugar-white sands and emerald-green waters teem with life and activity. That energy offers us the perfect setting to work, grow, and recharge as we come together to advance our industry.

This convention is not just a gathering but a platform for us to engage with foremost experts, share insights, and better understand workers' compensation systems. Through our collective effort, your unique perspectives, and shared experiences, we can forge an even brighter future where businesses flourish, and the well-being of workers is secured.

We are thrilled to have you join this event, which has the power to create meaningful change in the millions of lives that engage with the workers' compensation system each year. Your attendance is invaluable, and we are eager to connect with you at the convention.

Paul Tauriello
SAWCA President
Director of the Colorado
Division of Workers' Compensation

Convention Program

Monday July 29, 2024

Registration	Noon - 5:00PM	Juniper Foyer
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Tuesday July 30, 2024

Registration	8:00AM - 5:00PM	Juniper Foyer
Board Meeting	9:30AM - 11:30AM	Silverbell
Exhibitor Setup	10:00AM - 5:00PM	Juniper Foyer

SAWCA Leadership Forums

Medical Forum	1:30PM - 3:00PM	Juniper 3
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The Medical Committee is pleased to present the Medical Leadership Forum.
“Improving Outcomes with Patient-Centric Innovation”

Please join us for interactive discussions with two Orthopaedic Surgeons, and representatives from ODG and FIGUR8 to explore the challenges of affording injured workers access to outcome improving innovative musculoskeletal care options. Regulator & Industry participation is encouraged to further the dialogue to better meet the needs of injured workers, expedite access to outcome driven care and decreasing administrative burdens.

Moderator: Ken Eichler, AMA Health Solutions

Presenters:

Raz Winiarsky, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, Asst. Professor of Orthopedic Surgery

Thomas Branch, MD, Orthopaedic Surgeon. Mechanical Engineer

Matt Byrne, DPT, Exercise Physiologist and Exec Director at Figur8

Pauline Williams, ODG Director & former State

Sponsored By: American Medical Association

Legal Forum	1:30PM - 3:00PM	Juniper 5
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The Adjudication Committee is pleased to present the Legal Leadership Forum.

Moderator: Robert L. Swisher, Director of Claims-Legal, KEMI

Panelists: Chief Judge Kenneth Switzer (TN); Commissioner James Forrester (MD);

Chief ALJ Doug Gott (KY); Judge Sharon Reeves (GA); Judge Jennifer Nicaud (MS);

Topics Addressed Include:

- Enforcement of Orders – What Processes Work
- Self-represented Litigants – Successful Approaches
- Young Lawyers – How to train the new generation of legal eagles
- Mandatory v. Voluntary Mediation – Updates on the success of mediation

Sponsored By: Enlyte

“Sandestin Connect”, An Open Wi-Fi Network Is Available in Meeting Space

Tuesday July 30, 2024

Regulators Roundtable 3:15PM - 5:00PM Juniper 6

Moderators: Tom Glasson (AIG) & Mark Walls (Safety National)

Participating States: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Sponsored By: Optum



**Tuesday Evening
Dinner on Your Own**

**Enjoy the wonderful dining options
available in the Sandestin area**

Wednesday July 31, 2024

Breakfast With Exhibitors 7:30AM - 8:45AM Juniper Foyer

Sponsored By: TriStar

Exhibits Open 7:30AM - 5:00PM Juniper Foyer

Registration 8:00AM - 5:00PM Juniper Foyer

Welcome 8:30AM - 8:45AM Juniper 6

SAWCA President, Paul Tauriello, Director of the Colorado Division of WC
Florida Welcome, Brittany O’Neil, Asst. Director, Florida Division of WC

The 2024 Industry Symposium

Sponsored By: Safety National

2024 General Session 1: 8:45 AM – 9:40 AM Juniper 6

Carrier / Industry Roundtable:

Moderated by Tom Glasson (AIG)...The first of three roundtable discussions focused on the workers’ compensation industry will address issues specific to the carriers who provide coverage for most of our employers across the nation.

Panelists include:

David Williams, Director-Program Services -Claims, Trean Insurance Group
Thomas Hebson, Vice President of Sales & Marketing, TriStar Insurance Group
Tracy Crawford, General Manager, Alliance Coal, LLC.

Wednesday July 31, 2024

Break With Exhibitors **9:40AM - 10:00AM** **Juniper Foyer**
Sponsored By: Concentra

2024 General Session 2: **10:00AM – 10:55AM** **Juniper 6**

Employer Roundtable:

Moderated by Mark Walls (Safety National)

Mark welcomes a distinguished panel of employers as we continue our industry focus sharing issues and concerns specific to employers.

Panelists:

Lana Martin, General Claims Manager, Dillard's

Leigh Ellington, Human Resources Manager, Taylor Machine Works

Natasha Sumter, J.D., Dir. of Claims Compliance & Regulatory Programs, Walmart

Break With Exhibitors **10:55AM – 11:15AM** **Juniper Foyer**
Sponsored By: Concentra

2024 General Session 3: **11:15AM – 12:15PM** **Juniper 6**

“Attorney Roundtable – System Challenges”

Moderated By: Robert Rapaport (Virginia WCC)

Panelists:

Hon. Melodie Belcher (GA), Hon. Asha Jefferson (MD), Hon. Kenneth Switzer

Join us for a discussion focused on multiple topics including:

Variations in Procedures and the Exercise of Discretion / The Bossy Judge

Timeliness of Decision Making / Time to Resolution / Discovery Woes

Effect of Our Mobile Society and Remote Working (Medical Panels)

“Networking Lunch” **12:20 PM – 1:30 PM** **Juniper 3-5**
Sponsored By: Safety National

“Conversations” Juniper Foyer

The Exhibit and Registration area remains available for meetings with regulators and industry professionals allowing attendees to continue the discussions from earlier today as well as addressing specific questions relative to individual jurisdictions thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the issues impacting workers’ compensation systems across the nation. Whether last minute invitations or scheduled appointments, take time to build lasting professional relationships.

Wednesday July 31, 2024

President's Reception 7PM - 8:30PM Azalea Foyer & Veranda

SAWCA President, Paul Tauriello, Director of the Colorado Division of WC, invites you to join him at the President's Reception for an evening of rekindled friendships, great food & beverages, amid the beauty of the Sandestin Resort.

Co-Sponsored By:

AKERA Claims Solutions, Workers' Compensation Institute, M. Joseph Medical, Ametros, ODG by MCG, WorkCompCollege.com, Meridian Wealth Management, & Healthesystems

Thursday August 1, 2024

Breakfast With Exhibitors 7:30AM - 8:45AM Juniper Foyer

Sponsored By: TriStar

Exhibits Open 7:30AM - 5:00PM Juniper Foyer

Registration 8:00AM - 5:00PM Juniper Foyer

Welcome 8:45AM - 9:00AM Juniper 6

SAWCA President, Paul Tauriello, Director of the Colorado Division of WC

General Session 4: 9:00AM – 10:30AM Juniper 6

SAWCA Presents "Comp Talks 2024" "Emerging Leaders & The Future Of WC"

Moderated By: Jackie Jackson (CO) & Ellen Heiber (Verisk)

**MEET THE COMP TALK SPEAKERS
2024 SAWCA
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

2024 COMP TALKS

**"EMERGING LEADERS & THE FUTURE OF
WORKERS' COMPENSATION"**

 Erin Bishop ADR SUPERVISOR VA WC COMMISSION	 Jordyn Cagney RTW CONSULTANT PINNACOL ASSURANCE	 Nelson Gonzalez EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FL REHAB WITHOUT WALLS	 Tim Hassett-Salley DIRECTOR OF REVENUE DEVELOPMENT WCRI	 Joshua Schuette DIRECTOR, NATIONAL WC BROOKS REHABILITATION	 Melissa Steger ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR WC & UNEMPLOYMENT THE U OF TEXAS SYSTEM
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Thursday August 1, 2024

Break With Exhibitors
Sponsored By: Concentra

10:30AM – 10:50AM Juniper Foyer

General Session 5:
“How AI Is Impacting Medical Reviews”

10:50AM – 12:15PM Juniper 6

Moderator: Ellen Heiber (Verisk)

Presenter: Rob Lewis, SVP of Innovation & Business Development, Verisk

Join us for an overview and discussion of how harnessing AI and ML can effectively automate the administrative process associated with medical records resulting in savings of both time and money.

“Convention Lunch” 12:20 PM – 1:30 PM Juniper 3-5

Sponsored By: Prodigy Care Services

The remainder of Wednesday is available for you to meet with regulators and industry professionals...continuing the discussions from the multiple sessions earlier today and gaining a deeper understanding of the various issues impacting workers' compensation systems across the nation. And be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with our Exhibitors.

SAWCA's Celebration Dinner **7:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

Attendees, guests, and families are invited to SAWCA's Celebration Dinner. Enjoy great food and live music as we celebrate our 76th Annual Convention.

Music By: “Latitude”
Tom & Michelle Becker

Azalea Ballroom & Foyer
Sponsored By: Verisk



Friday August 2, 2024

“Farewell Grits Breakfast **7:30AM - 9:00AM** **Juniper 6**
Sponsored By: Sedgwick

Registration **8:00AM** **Juniper Foyer**
Exhibits Open **7:30AM** **Juniper Foyer**
Conference Announcements **8:50AM - 9:00AM** **Juniper 6**

2024 General Session 6: **9:00AM - 10:00AM** **Juniper 6**
“Federal & State Legislative Trends”



Tim Tucker, Washington Affairs Executive, External and Government Affairs, NCCI

Join us for our annual update on newly enacted and potential federal and state legislative changes including judicial decisions that impact our workers’ comp systems. Tim shares a high-level overview of the recent Supreme Court “Chevron” ruling, the CMS/MSA April Guidelines, and more.

2024 General Session 7: **10:00AM - 11:00AM** **Juniper 6**
“Leadership Transitions In State WC Commissions”



Bob Wilson welcomes a distinguished panel of newly appointed regulatory experts for a lively discussion on transitions in leadership...along with a host of additional issues and topics that make Bob go “Hmmm”.

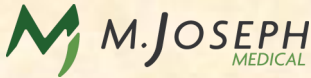
Jurisdictional leaders joining Bob include Brittany O’Neil, Florida; Troy Haley, Tennessee; Maureen Quinn, Maryland; and Scott Wilhoit, Kentucky

Closing Announcements
SAWCA President, Paul Tauriello,
Director, Colorado Division of WC

SAWCA adjourns & reconvenes
Nov.18, 2024 for the 2024 ACC
Omni Resort / Amelia Island, FL



SAWCA SPONSORS



SAWCA is pleased to recognize our industry partners for their support and participation.

If Your Company Is Interested In Joining These Industry Leaders In Their Support of SAWCA? Contact Gary Davis: gary.davis@sawca.org

2024 National Regulators Roundtable[©]

August 19, 2024 - 2:30 PM

**The Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators
in conjunction with the**

WCI National Educational Conference

Orlando World Center Marriott



*August each year
Workers' Comp
Regulators from
throughout the
nation come*

together to discuss challenges, concerns and issues facing jurisdictions in their oversight of an ever-changing workers' compensation industry. Problems facing one jurisdiction may have already been addressed by another. Developing issues in one state may be an omen for future developments in another and legislative / constitutional issues know no boundaries.

The National Regulators Roundtable[©] is a forum where regulators share lessons learned and seek timely answers to their most pressing issues. Topics Routinely Included Are:

- ◆ *Constitutional Challenges & Presumptions*
- ◆ *Emerging Trends / Artificial Intelligence*
- ◆ *Self-Insurance, Bankruptcies, & Defaults*
- ◆ *Federal Intrusion*
- ◆ *Managing the Legislative Environment*
- ◆ *Top Ten Medical Issues*
- ◆ *Advancing Technology & System Overhauls*
- ◆ *Increasing Economic Pressures*

This Session is open to all WCI Convention Attendees.

The Roger L. Williams National Regulators College©

***World Center Marriott Orlando, Florida
August 19-20, 2024***



Each year the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators and The Self-Insurance Guaranty Funds of America present the National Workers' Compensation Regulators

College. ...a world-class opportunity for both the newly appointed and the experienced regulator. The curriculum for the National Regulators College © is a program designed by veteran state regulators and renowned industry experts who lead the topic driven, discussion-oriented sessions.

Tuition is \$375 for the 2-day / 12 hour college and includes:

- ◆ *Open Only To Regulators & State Officials*
- ◆ *All Course Material & Handouts*
- ◆ *Breakfast & Lunch Both Days With Am/PM Breaks*
- ◆ *Contact List of Faculty & Students*
- ◆ *Complimentary WCI Convention Registration*

Join us and take full advantage of the expertise & knowledge of world-class speakers & their willingness to share; enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the World Center Marriott; and use the College to build life-long professional relationships.

The Best Regulatory Educational Opportunity In The Nation

Visit: www.sawca.org / gary.davis@sawca.org

77th Annual Convention



SAWCA moves from the Atlantic to the Gulf Coast ...but keeps the sun and sand of Florida beaches revisiting the “Grand Lady” of the Gulf Coast...The Don

CeSar July 14-18, 2025. SAWCA invites you to join the “decision makers” from 21 jurisdictions and industry experts from across the nation for 4 days of Keynote Speakers, Leadership Forums, General Sessions and Special Events. Add an Industry Exhibit Hall and numerous opportunities specifically designed to foster substantive discussions and you have a conference that is a “must attend” event. Join Us...St. Pete Beach, FL.. July 2025!

2025 All Committee Conference



November 10-14, 2025 marks the dates for the SAWCA ACC amidst the incredible beauty of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Make plans now to join us at The Broadmoor...a world famous hotel nestled at

the foot of Cheyenne Mountain. The ACC provides attendees a full educational program with the intimacy of a small group setting allowing for greater access and professional growth. Plus...It is The



Broadmoor. Find a way to join us November 2025.

It Will Be A Conference To Remember!