



78th Annual SAWCA Convention The Don CeSar St. Pete Beach, FL July 13-17, 2026 *Proudly Sponsored By: Verisk*

Monday July 13, 2026

Registration Noon - 5:00 PM 5th Floor Foyer

Tuesday July 14, 2026

Registration 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM 5th Floor Foyer
 Exhibit Setup 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Royal Ballroom Foyer
 Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Buena Vista
(Officers, Directors, & Committee Members are requested to attend)

Leadership Forums 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM 5th Floor Terraces
 SAWCA opens its 78th Annual Convention with our “Leadership Forums” focused on Medical and Legal issues that are impacting our workers’ compensation systems. Join us for roundtable discussions and presentations led by state officials and industry professionals.

Medical Forum South Terrace
“Access to Care” 5th Floor
 The Medical Committee is pleased to host the Medical Leadership Forum, a panel of industry and regulatory professionals who will focus on the primary issues impacting access to care, including steps that their agency or company has taken to address these issues. Audience participation is encouraged, so bring your ideas.
Sponsored By:

Legal Forum North Terrace
“Mental Injury Claims from a Judge’s Perspective” 5th Floor
“The New Wave of Self-Represented Litigants and Challenges Presented”
 Moderated By: Robert Swisher, Director, Claims-Legal for Kentucky Employers’ Mutual Insurance
 Panelists: Judge Jennifer Nicaud (MS), Judge Sharon Reeves (GA) & Commissioner Cynthia Dooley (SC)
 Join us for an engaging and insightful discussion on two of the most pressing issues in WC.
Sponsored By: Enlyte

You Are Invited To Swim With The COMP SHARKS!

“Comp Sharks” **3:15 PM – 5:00 PM** **Royal Ballroom**

Theme: “Solutions to Access to Care”

Facilitators – Kevin Tribout (Optum) & Ellen Heiber (Verisk)

Moderator – Lauren Hammonds Johnson (OK)

Sharks: Mark Walls, Safety National; Rosalie Faris, OMCA; Ellen Heiber (Verisk); Bob Rapaport (VA)

Want to swim with the Comp Sharks...check out the [SAWCA website and submit your proposal](#).

Several “Access to Care” thought leaders will present their proposal to our “Comp Sharks” ...proposals designed to address one of several challenges confronting workers’ compensation injured workers as they seek access to care. And once they have presented their proposal to the Sharks, they must be prepared to defend their solution to the Sharks. Will they be successful and survive ...or be swimming for their lives?

Sponsored By: [WorkCompCollege.com](#)

President’s Reception **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM** **South Terrace**
SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission, invites you to join him at the President’s Reception for an evening of rekindled friendships, wonderful food & beverages, amid the beauty of the Don CeSar, with a special auction benefitting Kids’ Chance.
Co-Sponsored By: [AKERA Claims Solutions](#), [Workers’ Compensation Institute](#), [M. Joseph Medical](#), [Ametros ODG by MCG](#), [WorkCompCollege.com](#), [SOMPO International & Meridian Wealth Management](#)

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Breakfast With the Exhibitors	7:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Royal Ballroom Foyer
<i>Sponsored By: TriStar</i>		
Exhibits Open	7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Royal Ballroom Foyer
Registration	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	5 th Floor Foyer
Welcome	8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Royal Ballroom

SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission
Florida Welcome: Greg Jenkins, Workers' Compensation Policy Coordinator

General Session 1: **8:45 AM – 10:15 AM** **Royal Ballroom**

“Regulators Roundtable – Part 1”

Moderator: Max Koonce leads a focused discussion on issues that impact systems across the nation

Panelists: Jurisdictional Workers’ Comp Leaders from across the nation.

Topics: Access to Care / Evolution of Mental Health-PTSD in WC Claims and its impact / Fee Schedules / Fraud / Artificial Intelligence / and Ethical Challenges and Political Realities of Agency Leadership

Break With the Exhibitors
Sponsored By: **Concentra**

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Royal Ballroom Foyer

General Session 2
“Regulators Roundtable – Part 2”

10:30 AM – Noon

Royal Ballroom

Moderator: Mark Walls

Panelists: Jurisdictional Workers’ Comp Leaders from across the nation.

Mark Walls continues the discussion with agency leaders focusing on our list of topics

Regulators Roundtable Format: For 2026 SAWCA is dividing the Regulators Roundtable into two sessions to provide more opportunity for our state regulators to share thoughts and ideas regarding our topics of Access to Care / Evolution of Mental Health-PTSD in WC Claims and its impact / Fee Schedules / Fraud / Artificial Intelligence / and Ethical Challenges and Political Realities of Agency Leadership.

SAWCA’s “Networking Lunch”
Sponsored By: **ERMI**

Noon – 1:15 PM

South Terrace

“Conversations with Regulators”

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Royal Ballroom

The Exhibit Hall remains open on Wednesday afternoon 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 get togethers...or scheduled appointments, take time to build trusting relationships.



Wednesday Evening Dinner on Your Own

***Enjoy the wonderful dining options
available at the Don CeSar and
surrounding St. Pete Beach***

Thursday July 16, 2026

Breakfast With the Exhibitors <i>Sponsored By: MyMatrixx By Evernorth</i>	7:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Royal Ballroom Foyer
Exhibits Open	7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Royal Ballroom Foyer
Registration	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	5 th Floor Foyer
Welcome & Conference Update / ACC Preview	8:20 AM – 8:30 AM	Royal Ballroom

SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission

The 2026 Industry Symposium Sponsored By: Safety National

General Session 3: 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Royal Ballroom

“Industry Response to Regulators Roundtable

Moderated by Max Koonce, Sedgwick

Join Max Koonce and a panel of industry professionals as they share responses to the concerns and challenges voiced during the regulators roundtable on Wednesday...agree or disagree...???...but sure to be enlightening.

Break With the Exhibitors 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM **Royal Ballroom Foyer**
Sponsored By: Concentra, Inc.

General Session 4: 10:20 AM – 11:20AM Royal Ballroom

“Economy of Workers’ Compensation”

Stephen Cooper - Ex Dir & Senior Economist, NCCI

Introduction By: David Benedict, Senior State Relations Executive, Regulatory

The dynamically changing workforce and evolving economy are top of mind for workers’ comp executives. Stephen provides an in-depth perspective on recent economic developments and their impact on workers’ compensation.

General Session 5: 11:25 AM – 12:20 PM Royal Ballroom

“Highlights From Comp Sharks – Practical Approaches to Implementation”

Moderator: Max Koonce, Sedgwick

Invited Panelists: Greg Gilbert, Concentra; Kimberly George, Sedgwick;
Troy Haley (TN); Gaetano Testini (AZ)

Max Koonce leads a panel of industry and regulatory professionals in a recap of the Comp Sharks session.

Convention Lunch 12:20 PM – 1:30 PM **South Terrace**
Sponsored By: Prodigy Care Services

Join us for a wonderful lunch and the opportunity for great discussions with your fellow attendees. And be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with our Exhibitors till 2:30pm.

“Peer to Peer Discussions”

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Royal Ballroom

The Exhibit Hall remains open Thursday afternoon for meetings with regulators and industry professionals ... And be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with our Exhibitors till 2:30pm. Whether last minute get together or scheduled appointments, take time to build trusting relationships.

SAWCA’s Sunset BBQ

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

South Terrace Veranda

Attendees, guests, and families are invited to SAWCA’s Sunset Reception and Dinner. Enjoy great food, live music, games & more as we celebrate our 78th Annual Convention.

**Music By: “Latitude”
Tom and Michelle Becker
Sponsored By: Verisk**



Friday July 17, 2026

“Farewell Friday Grits” Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Royal Ballroom

Sponsored By: Sedgwick

Registration

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

5th Floor Foyer

Exhibits Open

7:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Royal Ballroom Foyer

Conference Update

8:50AM – 9:00 AM

Royal Ballroom

SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission



General Session 6:

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Royal Ballroom

Bob Wilson welcomes a distinguished panel of regulatory and industry experts for a lively discussion of those issues and topics that make Bob go “hmmm”.

SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission

Recognition of SAWCA Officers for 2026-2027 / Closing Announcements & Remarks

SAWCA reconvenes Nov. 16-20, for the 2026 ACC, The Greenbrier. White Sulphur Springs, WV