



# 78<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

## Tuesday July 14, 2026

Registration 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Leadership Forums 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Terraces**  
 SAWCA opens its 78<sup>th</sup> 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” 5<sup>th</sup> 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.  
 Moderated By: Rosalie Faris, OMCA  
 Panelists: Dr. Robert Snyder (TN), Greg Gilbert (Concentra), Dan Sung (CO) and Dr. Paul Nanda, (Tampa)  
*Sponsored By: Verisk*

**Legal Forum North Terrace**  
**“Mental Injury Claims from a Judge’s Perspective” 5<sup>th</sup> 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)  
 Judge David Langham (FL) & 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”

Moderator – Lauren Hammonds Johnson (OK)

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

Several “Access to Care” thought leaders 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](http://WorkCompCollege.com)*

**President’s Reception**                      **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**                      **South Terrace**  
**SAWCA President, Mark Formby, Chairman of the Mississippi Workers’ 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 Kids’ Chance auction. (Auction - Approx 7:45pm)  
**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: <a href="#">TriStar</a></i>		
Exhibits Open	7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Royal Ballroom Foyer
Registration	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> 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 – 10:00 AM**                      **Royal Ballroom**

**“Regulators Roundtable – Part 1”**

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

Panelists: Joan Knight (DC), Brian Blackwood (LA), Jordan Russell (OK), Scott Beck (SC), Troy Haley (TN), Jennifer Hopens (TX), Greg Jenkins (FL) and Bob Rapaport (VA)

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

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**Break With the Exhibitors**                      **10:00 AM – 10:20 AM**                      **Royal Ballroom Foyer**  
*Sponsored By: [Concentra](#)*

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**General Session 2** **10:20 AM – 11:30 AM** **Royal Ballroom**  
*“Regulators Roundtable – Part 2”*  
 Moderator: Mark Walls  
 Panelists: Brandt Smith (AZ), Paul Tauriello (CO), Allison Stein (DE), Frank McKay (GA), Scott Wilhoit (KY), Asha Jefferson (MD), John Lewis (AL) and Mark Formby (MS)  
 Mark Walls continues the discussion with agency leaders focusing on Access to Care issues & challenges.

**SAWCA Update** **11:30 AM – Noon** **Royal Ballroom**  
 Moderator/Host: Mark Formby, SAWCA President & Chairman of the Mississippi Compensation Commission

**SAWCA’s “Networking Lunch”** **Noon – 1:15 PM** **South Terrace**  
 Sponsored By: **ERMI**

**“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 <sup>th</sup> 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**

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## **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.

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## **Break With the Exhibitors**

**10:00 AM - 10:20 AM**

**Royal Ballroom Foyer**

**Sponsored By: [Concentra, Inc.](#)**

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## **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); Brandt Smith (AZ)

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

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## **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.

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## **“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 togethers 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 78<sup>th</sup> 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

5<sup>th</sup> 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