

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman, R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman Karl Aumann and Commissioners James Forrester, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Maureen Quinn, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the October 14, 2021, Commission meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: The Chairman discussed the SAWCA conference in November and the WCI conference in Orlando in December. Both conferences are moving ahead in person. The Chairman had a discussion with the MD Medical Cannabis Commission Legislative Officer regarding possible legislation for workers' compensation payment for medical cannabis. Discussion was held regarding recruiting for Court Reporters and the challenges that the Commission has discovered in this recruitment. Management is looking at all options. The Commissioners discussed methods used by other courts to record proceedings. The Commission has received the informal approval of the 2023 budget by the Budget Committee. The Commission is expecting more retirements to be announced in the coming months. At present, there are sixteen (16) open positions at the Commission. The Chairman asked the Commissioners to mark their calendars for a virtual Employee Recognition Day on December 9, 2021. The program will recognize employees who had milestone anniversaries in 2021. The event will be similar to the retirement event in October and will be on MS Teams so all employees may participate.

Old Business: Commissioner Howard Metz and Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel discussed additional proposed changes to 14.09.04.03 Schedule of Attorney's Fees. Scott Curtis presented a straight percentage option with increases to all rate caps. The Commissioners discussed the challenges and benefits to the options presented. The discussion will continue.

New Business: Commissioner Metz discussed Average Weekly Wage in the Death & Dependency statute where there is a part-time job held by the deceased worker at the time of death. Commissioner Quinn discussed docket management and access to the AS/400 system. Commissioner Assistants have access to updates on the Commission website and can send emails to Court Reporters and Commissioners when dockets change. Mary Ahearn will discuss with the Director of Court Reporting. Discussion was held regarding Ad Astra interpreters and continuing issues. The Executive Office is working with Ad Astra to correct the problems.

Medical Alerts: None.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary