

**Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Aumann, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, and Delia Turano Schadt.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the November 10, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second of Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Closed Session:** At 9:32 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Metz and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(13), LE §§9-402, 9-403, 9-405, 9-406 and 9-1104, and COMAR 14.09.13.12, the Commissioner entered into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

**ICR Report:** Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported that M&T Bank has requested a reduction in security deposit. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin, and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Jones also reported that MGM Resorts International requires an increase in security deposit. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Forrester and a second of Commissioner Evans, and with unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

**Open Session:** At 9:39 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Forrester and second from Commissioner Metz and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Aumann reminisced for a moment at this, his last meeting of the Commissioners after 17 years as a member and Chairman of the Commission. The Average Weekly Wage Report was recently distributed to the Commissioners and the Chairman noted that the AWW has doubled in the last 20 years. The Chairman reported that the paint and carpet project is almost finished and he gave a shout out to Stacey Roig for her organization, coordination and selection of the products and her hard work to get the project finished well ahead of the schedule. The Chairman also gave a shout out to Scott Curtis for recent updates he provided regarding an unpublished report from the Court of Special Appeals. The unpublished report was clear that orders should be consistent unless there is a reason to not follow a previous finding in a case. The parties to any claim should not have to appeal to the circuit court because the Commission reversed a finding without a reason. The Chairman reported that he has not received notification of any scheduled meetings of the Oversight Committee or other legislative meetings. The contacts for the Commission will not change but, they are waiting for the new administration to get started before proceeding with 2023 session meetings. The Chairman urged the Commissioners and staff to keep the contacts that we have with SAWCA and IAIABC and others and to continue our presence there. Finally, the Chairman expressed his thanks to all the Commissioners', current and past, and the Commission staff for their support during his 17 years as Chairman of the Commission.

**Old Business:** The Commissioners discussed the use of interpreters in Video Remote Hearings (VRH) and the challenges in the video setting and language barriers with interpreter services. After further discussion the Commissioners decided that Video Remote Hearings (VRH) requests will be reviewed by the Duty Commissioner to determine if the VRH is necessary, based on the reason that is given in the request for a VRH. Interpreter and SIF cases will not be heard via VRH unless there are exceptional circumstances. Principal Counsel Scott Curtis will provide the Notice for the Commission website.

Commissioner Kittleman asked a general question to clarify that when a settlement comes in, and it was previously denied by another Commissioner, the settlement should be sent to that previous Commissioner to review.

The Chairman reminded the Commissioners of their CompHub Training Day on February 27, 2023. No Hearings are scheduled on that day and no leave will be granted for that date.

The Commissioners discussed docket sizes and the current size of 25 cases per docket. They also discussed Emergency Hearings and requests for late arrivals at hearings.

**New Business:** Mary Ahearn reminded the Commissioners that TikTok and other designated APPS are not allowed on State owned devices. If you have a question about APPs on your devices and what is or is not allowed, contact IT for more information.

**Medical Alerts:** Dr. Reichmister reported on several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Oh and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

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Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

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