

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 14, 2021

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

Present: Chairman Karl Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Maureen Quinn and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Chief Executive Officer, Scott Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, and Amy Lackington, Acting Secretary.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the September 9, 2021 and September 16, 2021 Commission meetings were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and second of Commissioner Oh, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: The Chairman reminded the Commissioners about the Commission's virtual celebration of the employees who have retired this year in lieu of an in-person celebration. The Chairman advised that the caseload backlog is improving. The Chairman met in Annapolis with the Chairs of the Legislative Oversight Committee to discuss recent issues in the workers' compensation community. There will be an in-person Oversight Committee meeting in December pending Speaker approval. The three Committee Chairs are also planning to attend the SAWCA All Committee Conference in November. The Commission is working hard to hire new court reporters. There are limited court reporting programs available. Those universities and colleges who do offer it, now offer only virtual classes.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Metz gave an in-depth overview of the proposed changes to 14.09.04.03 Schedule of Attorney's Fees. The changes are being considered in an effort to update and consolidate the regulation as well as to make it easier to administer. Discussion was held and the regulation will be voted on at the next Commission meeting. Discussion was also held regarding the withdrawal of an attorney's appearance without good cause. The Commission follows the same procedure as that of the District Court. The Commission will be removing the Notice to Withdraw Appearance form from its website and from electronic submission since it is being used improperly and practitioners are not following the requirements of COMAR 14.09.04.01E.

Medical Alerts: None.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Amy S. Lackington, Acting Secretary