

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2020

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

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

Staff members attending were Scott Curtis, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Amy Lackington, Mary Ahearn and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the February 13, 2019 Commission meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and second of Commissioner Quinn, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Aumann thanked the Commissioners for participating in the Kids' Chance Bowling Event on February 26, 2020. The event was very successful. The Executive Nominations Committee Hearings are complete for all new Commissioners and Commissioners Oh and Martin have been approved. The Legislative session is very busy right now with a few bills of some concern, including several bills that propose unpopular changes to the Public Information Act. Discussions continue with the Uninsured Employers' Fund assessment bill. There is also some "medical only" attorney fee legislation that is raising some interesting questions. The Chairman reminded the Commissioners to review the SAWCA program, which was recently released to the SAWCA website. The program appears to be very productive.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Discussion was held regarding the Bethlehem Steel hearing loss cases and how to identify them so that they are all heard before the same Commissioner. It was determined that all Bethlehem Steel settlements will be routed to Commissioner Forrester. Attorneys are to use the Extraordinary Fee form to explain their fee.

Commissioner Quinn discussed a settlement with a Medicare Set Aside ("MSA") that seemed to be an incorrect amount.

Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed the perpetual late arrival of an attorney that, in her opinion, has reached the point of abusiveness. Chairman Aumann suggested discussing tardiness, continuances at the last minute and other similar behavior at the Breakfast with the Commissioners at the MWCEA Convention in September.

Commissioner Forrester discussed the filing of C51s prematurely by billing companies causing a hearing to be set and the process regarding the withdrawal of medical claims.

Commissioner Schadt discussed "25 Things Judges Should Remember", a handout provided by the Court Reporters as a reminder of their role in the hearing room and some of the challenges that they face during hearings.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary