



77th Annual SAWCA Convention



July 21-25, 2025
Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor, FL

Sponsored By  **Verisk™**

Welcome To SAWCA's 77th Annual Convention



“You are not alone. One of the benefits of SAWCA is that there is no issue, no problem, no obstacle that your jurisdiction is going to face that one of your fellow jurisdictions has not already dealt with. SAWCA is a resource. It is a collection of agencies with the common goal of effectively and efficiently delivering workers’ compensation services to workers’ and industry. While we operate under different statutes and regulations, the mission is the same. Each of us has something to offer the other and is a resource ready to share what has worked and what has not turned out as we had hoped.

This convention is an opportunity to engage with each other and with some of the foremost experts in the workers’ compensation world. The programs are designed to provide insight into the topics that challenge us all. The time spent with your fellow Judges and Regulators both in and out of the meetings provide an opportunity to share our unique perspectives and shared experiences. Everyone is encouraged to seek and offer guidance and insight on the topics that confront us all.

We are very excited to have you join us on this journey to learn and grow. While your attendance is most welcome, your expertise and participation are invaluable. Welcome.”

SAWCA President
Honorable Robert Rapaport – Virginia WCC

Convention Program

Monday July 21, 2025

Registration **12:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **Royal Tern Foyer**

Tuesday July 22, 2025

Registration **8:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **Royal Tern Foyer**

Board Meeting **9:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Blueback**

Exhibitor Setup **10:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **Royal Tern Foyer**

SAWCA Leadership Forums

Medical Forum **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM** **Silver Perch**

The Medical Committee is pleased to welcome Dr. Eric Kaplan – Forensic Psychiatrist...who specializes in the treatment of work-related mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders, and traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Kaplan will discuss how pre-existing mental diagnosis can become exacerbated by a work injury...Identification of a mental health diagnosis following an injury and how to determine if it was related to the work injury...What treatment could be appropriate and related to work injury for depression AND PTSD, and more. **Sponsored By: American Medical Association**

Legal Forum **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM** **Palometa**

The Adjudication Committee is pleased to present a panel discussion covering two interesting topics: Statutory Presumptions and Difficult Judges & Lawyers. (It should be noted that we are unaware of any statutory presumptions that a judge will be difficult).

Medical proof and causation presumptions will lead the way. An increase in presumptions in favor of certain occupations has occurred over the last several years. First Responders head the list. And the list of presumed diseases continues to grow. Are we on the verge of causation presumptions in other occupations? Do these presumptions really result in ultimate compensable claims? Or do the criteria to obtain the presumption have the effect of defeating the presumption before it even gets started?

What lawyer has not concluded that at least one judge is unusually difficult? And what judge has not taken the bench and sighed inwardly because a particularly difficult lawyer is about to try a case? How do you respond?

Join us for a lively discussion led by Judge Melodie Belcher from Georgia.

Panelists: Ferrell Newman (VA WCC); Bob Swisher (KY Employers Mutual);

Doug Gott (KY DWC); & Jacquelyn Newman (FL Judges of Compensation Claims

Sponsored By: Enlyte

Tuesday July 22, 2025

Regulators Roundtable 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM Royal Tern

Moderators: Max Koonce (Sedgwick) & Mark Walls (Safety National)

Participating States: Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, & Alaska.

Sponsored By: Optum

President's Reception 7:00 PM - 8:30PM Great Egret

SAWCA President, Robert Rapaport, Commissioner of the Virginia WCC invites you to join him at the President's Reception for an evening of rekindled friendships, wonderful food & beverages, amid the beauty of the Sunseeker Resort.

Sponsored By: AKERA Claims Solutions, Workers' Compensation Institute, M. Joseph Medical, Ametros, ODG by MCG, WorkCompCollege.com, & Meridian Wealth Management

Wednesday July 23, 2025

Breakfast With Exhibitors 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM Royal Tern Foyer

Sponsored By: TRISTAR

Exhibits Open 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Royal Tern Foyer

Registration 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Royal Tern Foyer

Welcome 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Royal Tern BR

SAWCA President, Robert Rapaport, Commissioner of the Virginia WCC

SAWCA Presents "Comp Talks 2025"

Sponsored By: WorkCompCollege.Com

Moderated By: Jackie Jackson (TX) & Ellen Heiber (Verisk)



MEET THE COMP TALK SPEAKERS

2025 77TH ANNUAL SAWCA CONVENTION

"THE ONE THING I'D CHANGE IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION IS..."



Ayesha Abid
VP
INJURY GUARD SOLUTIONS



Jenni Baros
LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
CDLE



Del Doherty
CEO
PRODIGY CARE SERVICES



Sarah Meyer
COO
BARDAVON



Troy Prevot
ASSOCIATE V.P.
MCG HEALTH



Jennifer Reno
BUSINESS ANALYST
VERISK



Wednesday July 23, 2025

Break With Exhibitors 10:30AM - 10:50AM Royal Tern Foyer
Sponsored By: Concentra

General Session 2: 10:50 AM – 12:15 PM Royal Tern BR
“Economy of Workers’ Compensation”

Presented By: Stephen Cooper - Ex. Director and Senior Economist, NCCI
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 WC.

“Networking Lunch” 12:20 PM – 1:30 PM Great Egret
Sponsored By: Safety National

“Conversations with Regulators” 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Royal Tern Foyer
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 thus 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 Sunseeker Resort***

Thursday July 24, 2025

Breakfast With Exhibitors 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM Royal Tern Foyer
Sponsored By: MyMatrixx by Evernorth

Exhibits Open 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Royal Tern Foyer
Registration 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Royal Tern Foyer
Welcome 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Royal Tern BR

SAWCA President, Robert Rapaport, Commissioner of the Virginia WCC

Thursday July 24, 2025

The 2025 Industry Symposium

Sponsored By: Safety National

General Session 3: **8:45 AM – 9:40 AM** **Royal Tern BR**
“Industry Responds to Regulator’s AI Benefits / Concerns & More”
Moderated by Max Koonce (Sedgwick)

This first of three roundtable discussions will respond to issues and comments expressed during the Regulators Roundtable on Tuesday afternoon specific to Artificial Intelligence, its benefits and concerns plus other associated topics.

Panelists: Leah Cooper, Sedgwick; Sharon DelGuercio, Publix
Brian Allen, Enlyte; and Kate Riordan, Verisk

Break With Exhibitors **9:40 AM - 10:00 AM** **Royal Tern Foyer**
Sponsored By: Concentra

General Session 4: **10:00 AM – 10:55 AM** **Royal Tern BR**
“Employer Workplace Violence”
Moderated by Mark Walls (Safety National)

Mark Walls welcomes a distinguished panel of employers as we continue our industry focus sharing their issues and concerns specific to workplace violence.

Panelists: Max Koonce, Sedgwick; Gloria Graham, Lee Health
& Kayla Guenther, City of Fort Myers

Break With Exhibitors **10:55 AM - 11:15 AM** **Royal Tern Foyer**
Sponsored By: Concentra



Thursday July 24, 2025

General Session 5: 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Royal Tern BR
“PTSD & Mental Health”

Moderated By: Robert Rapaport (Virginia WCC)

Panelists Include: Mark Walls, Safety National; Jordan Russell, Oklahoma
Dr. Robert Hall, Optum; & Jim Harvey, Concentra

Commissioner Robert Rapaport leads a panel in a discussion of PTSD & Mental Health issues including trends, impact of fee schedules, rising cost, compensability, regulatory guidance and more.

“Convention Lunch” 12:20 PM – 1:30 PM Half-Cracked Tiki
Sponsored By: Prodigy Care Services

“Peer-2-Peer Discussions” 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Royal Tern Foyer
The Exhibit Hall remains open Thursday afternoon for you to meet with regulators and industry professionals...continuing the discussions from the multiple sessions earlier today and gaining a deeper understanding of the various issues impacting workers’ compensation systems across the nation. And remember to visit with our Exhibitors.

SAWCA’s Sunset Celebration

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

*Attendees, guests, & families are invited to SAWCA’s Sunset Celebration.
Enjoy great food, live music, and celebrate our 77th Annual Convention.*

Back By Popular Demand & Appearing For One Night Only

“Latitude”

Tom & Michelle Becker

**Royal Tern
Terrace & Ballroom**

Sponsored By



Friday July 25, 2025

Friday's Grits Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Royal Tern Foyer

Sponsored By: Sedgwick

Exhibits Open

7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Royal Tern Foyer

Registration

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Royal Tern Foyer

SAWCA Update

8:45AM - 9:00 AM

Royal Tern BR

SAWCA President, Robert Rapaport, Commissioner of the Virginia WCC

General Session 6:

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Royal Tern BR

"Things That Make Bob Go... Hmmm"



Bob Wilson welcomes a distinguished panel of regulatory and industry experts for a lively discussion on topics that "Make Bob Go "Hmmm". You never know where the discussion will lead... but wherever it goes ... it is guaranteed to provide unique and unprecedented perspectives on topics previously unknown to represent critical issues in workers' comp. SAWCA is pleased to present the longest running

general session in the history of WC educational programs. Be in your seat when Bob says "Hmmm, I've always wanted to ask".

Closing Announcements

SAWCA President, Robert Rapaport,

Commissioner of the Virginia WCC

Recognition of SAWCA Officers

Closing Announcements & Remarks

SAWCA reconvenes Nov.10th for the

2025 ACC at The Broadmoor

Colorado Springs, Colorado



***\$\$ Show Me The Money! \$\$
Gift Card Drawings Courtesy of Verisk
But You Have To Be Present To Win.
Drawings Will Be Held During the General Sessions***

SAWCA SPONSORS



SAWCA is pleased to recognize our industry partners for their support and participation.

If Your Company Is Interested In Joining These Industry Leaders In Their Support of SAWCA? Contact Gary Davis: gary.davis@sawca.org

2025 National Regulators Roundtable®

August 18, 2025 - 2:30 PM

**The Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators
in conjunction with the**

WCI National Educational Conference

Orlando World Center Marriott



*August each year
Workers' Comp
Regulators from
throughout the
nation come*

together to discuss challenges, concerns and issues facing jurisdictions in their oversight of an ever-changing workers' compensation industry. Problems facing one jurisdiction may have already been addressed by another. Developing issues in one state may be an omen for future developments in another and legislative / constitutional issues know no boundaries.

The National Regulators Roundtable® is a forum where regulators share lessons learned and seek timely answers to their most pressing issues. Topics Routinely Included Are:

- ♦ *Constitutional Challenges & Presumptions*
- ♦ *Emerging Trends / Artificial Intelligence*
- ♦ *Self-Insurance, Bankruptcies, & Defaults*
- ♦ *Federal Intrusion*
- ♦ *Managing the Legislative Environment*
- ♦ *Top Ten Medical Issues*
- ♦ *Advancing Technology & System Overhauls*
- ♦ *Increasing Economic Pressures*

This Session is open to all WCI Convention Attendees.

The Roger L. Williams National Regulators College©

***World Center Marriott Orlando, Florida
August 18-19, 2025***



*Each year the Southern Association
of Workers' Compensation
Administrators and The Self-
Insurance Guaranty Funds of
America present the National
Workers' Compensation Regulators*

*College. ..a world-class opportunity for both the newly
appointed and the experienced regulator. The curriculum for
the National Regulators College © is a program designed by
veteran state regulators and renowned industry experts who
lead the topic driven, discussion-oriented sessions.*

Tuition is \$375 for the 2-day / 10 hour college and includes:

- ♦ *Open Only To Regulators & State Officials*
- ♦ *All Course Material & Handouts*
- ♦ *Breakfast & Lunch Both Days With Am/PM Breaks*
- ♦ *Contact List of Faculty & Students*
- ♦ *Complimentary WCI Convention Registration*

*Join us and take full advantage of the expertise & knowledge
of world-class speakers & their willingness to share; enjoy the
beautiful surroundings of the World Center Marriott; and use
the College to build life-long professional relationships.*

The Best Regulatory Educational Opportunity In The Nation

Visit: www.sawca.org / gary.davis@sawca.org

78th Annual Convention



*SAWCA returns to the Gulf Coast's iconic resort ...the "Grand Lady" of the Gulf Coast...The Don CeSar
July 13-17, 2026.*

SAWCA invites you to join the "decision makers" from 21 jurisdictions and industry experts from across the nation for 4 days of Keynote Speakers, Leadership Forums, General Sessions and Special Events. Add an Industry Exhibit Hall and numerous opportunities specifically designed to foster substantive discussions and you have a conference that is a "must attend" event. Join Us...St. Pete Beach, FL.. July 2026!

2025 All Committee Conference



November 10-14, 2025 marks the dates for the SAWCA ACC amidst the incredible beauty of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Make plans now to join us at The Broadmoor...a world famous hotel nestled

at the foot of Cheyenne Mountain. The ACC provides attendees a full educational program with the intimacy of a small group setting allowing for greater access and professional growth. Plus...It is The

Broadmoor. Find a way to join us November 2025.

It Will Be A Conference To Remember!

