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See our “new and improved” look for yourself.

The SCWCEA site redesign adds value for existing and potential members. Soon you will be able to register for events and renew your membership online, update your personal member information and access other member contact information in our upcoming members only section.

Please let us know of any resource sites you would like included. Let's make our site a useful tool for everyone.

Click on “News” for Case Law Updates.



South Carolina
Workers' Compensation
Educational Association

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President's Message

I would like to thank the members who attended the SCWCEA Medical Seminar in Charlotte this past March. If you were not able to be with us, you missed a very informative and entertaining conference.

Having been a member of this organization for 22 years, I have seen this association evolve to meet the needs of the membership.

Your Board of Directors and staff are working tirelessly to improve member services, seminars and conferences and to meet the challenges of technology through an improved website.

Yet, we must never cease to innovate and continue to better meet the needs of you, our members. This year's Board and Officers came together during February to examine what we are doing and how to do it better.

We have some unique opportunities this year that we hope to expand on in order to strengthen your knowledge and skills in the workers' compensation arena.

I am not one to espouse quotations. But, I am reminded by others (Donna Croom, our Executive Director) that President John F. Kennedy once said: “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

We hope you will join us in advancing the many programs and services of SCWCEA throughout the year and into the future.

Your Board of Directors and Officers pledge to represent you and do our best to ensure that SCWCEA continues to meet the needs of its membership.

We look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach in October!

—J. Russell Goudelock, II

Legislators Consider Workers' Comp Changes

Over 20 Workers' Compensation bills have been introduced in the South Carolina Legislature this year. One, S. 332, has been passed by the Senate and is currently being reviewed in the House.

The current version of S. 332, proposes changes in the requirements for stress related and mental injuries, repetitive trauma injuries, and occupational diseases. It also defines medical evidence, requiring it to be offered by a licensed health care provider.

The bill provides for the consideration of American Medical Association guidelines in determining the extent of permanent disability and adds the shoulder and hip to the list of scheduled members at 300 and 280 weeks respectively. It also removes the presumption of total disability on injuries, which result in a 50% or greater disability of the back.

The proposed bill also calls for the elimination of the South Carolina Second Injury Fund for injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2008.

It is too early to predict the outcome of S. 332 or any other proposed workers' compensation bills. To monitor their progress and to view the bills in their entirety, visit the South Carolina Statehouse website at: www.sc.statehouse.net.

The SCWCEA's conference in October will include sessions on any law changes and their impact to the South Carolina workers' compensation system.

President

J. Russell Goudelock, II
McAngus Goudelock &
Courie, *Columbia SC*

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Companion Property and
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Defender Services, Inc.
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Charlotte NC

Tony Timmerman
Square D, *Hopkins SC*

Harold J. Willson, Jr.
Willson, Jones, Carter and
Baxley, PA, *Greenville SC*

At the Commission...

Commissioner Derrick L. Williams Joins Agency

The most recent member of the seven-member Workers' Compensation Commission is one of the youngest-ever to be appointed to the panel and does not look a day over his 29 years. "I'm an old 29," jokes Commissioner Derrick L. Williams. "I am married, have a three month-old baby, and have been practicing law for five years."

Prior to his confirmation by the South Carolina Senate in mid-March, Commissioner Williams was an associate in the Columbia offices of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. He practiced in the areas of business litigation, franchise and distribution litigation, and labor and employment. His prior litigation background includes defense litigation, workers' compensation, and successfully representing clients in mediations and arbitrations.

Commissioner Williams earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2002, where he was a member of the South Carolina Environmental Law Journal. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in the Honors Program at the College of Charleston in 1999.

After a month-long training period at the Commission, where he will sit in on hearings, Commissioner Williams will begin hearing cases in May in the Charleston district. He is no stranger to the agency, having argued 50-60 cases before the Commission while an associate at Collins & Lacy in Columbia. In fact, he recalls having appeared before every Commissioner now on the panel, with the exception of Commissioner Andrea Pope Roche. "I don't remember exactly how often I was successful but I know I lost more cases than I won," he says.

Commissioner Williams was born in Florence and the family moved later to Columbia, where he graduated from Dreher. Both of his parents are pastors. He is married to Alana Odom Williams, an associate at Nelson Mullins in Columbia.

Virginia L. Crocker Named Judicial Director

Former workers' compensation commissioner Virginia L. Crocker has been named judicial director at the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. She assumed her new duties April 9. "One of the challenges before us is how to make the judicial department more effective and efficient. I think there is a need to take a fresh approach to our docketing system," she says.

Until recently Ms. Crocker had been serving as deputy commissioner at the Commission, in which role she was helping with the caseload as a mediator and by taking testimony as assigned by the jurisdictional commissioner. She served on the Commission from 1984-1992. From 1978-1984, she was a member of the SC House of Representatives and subsequently was Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Gov. Jim Hodges. She has served as director of special projects at Presbyterian College, and on the boards of Richland Memorial Hospital, Midlands Community Mediation Center, and Central Midlands Habitat for Humanity.

"I am looking forward to my new duties, and would be very interested in receiving new ideas and suggestions on how we can improve our service. Our new computer system will help us in establishing benchmarks. Our goal would be to keep improving our performance," she says.

A Legend Retires

After 30 years as the executive director of the Association he helped establish, John Nabors retired effective December 31, 2006.

Bringing workers' comp professionals together for information sharing and education has been the hallmark of John's career. "He's been a key player in building this organization from the ground up and has a great deal of institutional knowledge on the SCWCEA," says Rusty Goudelock, SCWCEA President, "He will be missed."

John pioneered "Comp Camp", as some call it, making this one of the larger annual conferences in the Palmetto State.

With a membership of almost 1,000, the SCWCEA continues to provide up-to-date information on medical and legal issues regarding workers' comp in South Carolina.

Instrumental also in the formation of Kids' Chance of South Carolina, a charity partially supported by SCWCEA to provide educational scholarships to children of families who have endured an economic hardship as a result of injury or death while on the job, John Nabors has achieved many triumphs to help make this organization what it is today.

"During my tenure, the Association has grown and is a viable part of Workers' Compensation in our state," notes Nabors. "I sincerely appreciate serving as Executive Director for so many years. I've met some wonderful people and have made some lifetime friends along the way. We have a great lady running the organization now."

John plans to spend his time handling the North Carolina Self Insurers Association, marking off items on "Miss Ann's" *To Do* list and enjoying his family.

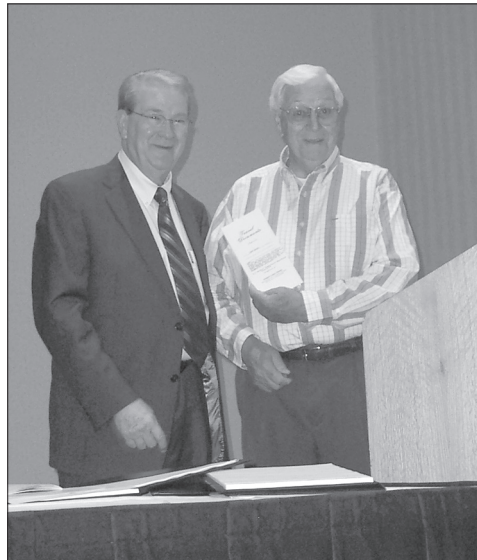
Kids' Chance Corner

Thank you, Fluor Daniel! The Kid's Chance BBQ Greenville Crew would like to express their gratitude to Fluor Daniel for once again providing the perfect venue for this event. Cherry Nalley has continued to be instrumental in securing the complimentary facility, assisting with the planning and making certain that this fund raiser is one of the best.

Mark your calendars now. The 2007 Kid's Chance Bar B Que will be held Friday, June 15, from 5-8 pm at the Fluor Daniel Recreational Facility in Greenville, SC, with Locust Grove providing entertainment. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased in advance by contacting:

Angie Kohl, Executive Director, Kid's Chance of SC, by phone at 803-356-5862 or by email at kidschancesc@alltel.net; **Michael Swindell**, Harris & Graves, by phone 864-235-1331 or by email at mss@harrisgraves.com or **Hal Willson**, by phone at 864-527-3270 or by email at hjwillson@mjlw.net

Come join us and help a good cause. We look forward to seeing you in Greenville!



John Nabors (right) receives a retirement gift from immediate Past President Bill Griggs (left) during the 2006 Annual Conference.

Go Electronic— Sign-Up Online for SCWCEA News and Update Your Information

Please take a moment to visit our new website at www.scwcea.org and click on "News Sign-Up" to sign up for the electronic version of this newsletter and email alerts throughout the year.

It's good for the environment because we use less paper and energy—and saves money for us in printing and postage.

It's also very easy way to make sure we have your current email address for ongoing communication.

www.scwcea.org

Membership Dues Increase June 1st

Effective June 1, 2007, membership dues will increase as follows:

\$150
Firm/Business
Membership

\$ 75
Individual Membership

\$ 50
Associate Membership
*for those employed by a
Firm or Business Member*

If you have not already renewed for this year, you will want to do so before these rates take effect.

Mary Joan Black, MD
Orthopaedic Associates, PA,
Spartanburg, SC

Bob Clark
Bob Clark, LLC, *Aiken, SC*

W. Ray Cox, Jr., *Greer, SC*

Katheryn Fiehrer
Wood, Porter & Warder, LLC,
Charleston, SC

Sandra Greenaway
Bluestein & Nichols, LLC,
Columbia, SC

Kathy Harbeson
Robert Bosch Corporation,
Charleston, SC

Debbie Henningsen
Greenville Hospital System,
Greenville, SC

Christy Jones
Montgomery Insurance,
Charlotte, NC

Michael Lasky
GAB Robbins North America,
Duluth, GA

Jim Leonard
American Interstate Insurance,
DeRidder, LA

Tammy Lynn
HeathTech, *Tampa, FL*

S. LeAnne McCormack
Willson, Jones, Carter & Baxley,
LLC,
Columbia, SC

Ryan Montgomery
Turner Padget, *Greenville, SC*

Doris Quizhpe
Companion Property & Casualty,
Columbia, SC

John Rabb
Moore & Van Allen LLC,
Charlotte, NC

Sharon Ramierez
Coastal Occupational Medicine,
Charleston, SC

Elizabeth F. Rinder
Huff Law Firm, *Irmo, SC*

Catherine Shelton
Long Bay Rehabilitation,
Myrtle Beach, SC

Terry Wendt
American Rehabilitation,
Charlotte, NC

SCWCEA Names New Executive Director

On September 29, 2006, the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association's search committee and Board of Directors awarded a one-year contract to Donna R. Croom of 360 Meetings & Events, LLC. Donna will serve as the Executive Director handling the daily responsibilities of the organization and she began these duties January 1, 2007.

A graduate of Winthrop College and the University of Oklahoma, Donna headed the international marketing for South

Carolina's Tourism Office for a number of years before serving as special events manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. She later took a position with Palmetto Economic Development Corporation as their business manager before starting her own company.

She remains active in both her community and church and resides in Irmo, South Carolina with her husband Robert and their 14 year old son, Warren.

Mark Your Calendar: Important Dates

May 24
South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission Seminar: Claims Made Easy
Columbia

June 1
Membership rate increase takes effect

June 15
Kid's Chance Bar B Que, *Greenville*

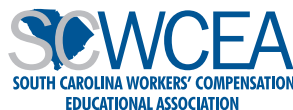
July 21
Deadline for current membership dues to receive member registration rate at 31st Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation

September 20
Hotel cut-off date for SCWCEA 31st Annual Conference on Workers' Compensation

September 21
Early registration ends for 31st Annual Conference on Workers' Compensation

September 27
South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission Seminar: Claims Made Easy
Columbia

October 21 – 24
31st Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation
Marriott's Grande Dunes Resort
Myrtle Beach



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