Fall 2011



Visit the website for details.

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South Carolina Workers' Compensation **Educational Association**

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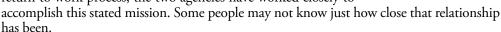
Donna R. Croom Executive Director www.scwcea.org

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WCC And Voc Rehab: Past Present And Future

By Stan Lacy, Collins and Lacy PC

The Workers' Compensation Commission and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation were created with a common mantra: return injured workers to gainful employment. Although Vocational Rehabilitation serves a much broader spectrum of disabled people than just injured workers and the Workers Compensation Commission's mission goes far beyond the return to work process, the two agencies have worked closely to



The Workers' Compensation Act was enacted in 1935. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation was not created until 1957 and, from its inception, the General Assembly intended Vocational Rehabilitation take an active role in helping workers' compensation claimants return to gainful employment. S.C. Code Ann. §43-31-20. The enabling statute declares it shall be the policy of South Carolina to "provide rehabilitation services to the extent needed and feasible, to eligible handicapped individuals throughout the State, to the end that they may engage in useful and remunerative occupations to the extent of their capabilities, thereby increasing their social and economic well-being and that of their families, and the productive capacity of this State and nation, also thereby reducing the burden of dependency on families and taxpayers." Certainly, injured workers were included in that edict.

Many of us remember just how closely the two agencies operated in the past. Vocational Rehabilitation maintained an office at the Commission. Most all of the Commission's cases were reviewed by the vocational representative. Betty Easler was the first representative that I remember, and Margie Perkins was also there for many years after Betty. They reviewed cases and made recommendation for claimants to be referred to the Department. Frequently, attorneys would call Betty, and later Margie, and asked for vocational help for a client or claimant, and the Department was always eager to help. Some may remember Margie's office next to the waiting area for the main hearing room.



Times changed. Budget constraints made such accessibility impractical. Both agencies have been reduced in size, so what we took for granted twenty years ago is not presently available. Voc Rehab only has the manpower to periodically review random files. Perhaps 1.5% of the Commission's files are reviewed. Few claimants are presently offered vocational services unless there is a direct referral by a commissioner or attorney or the claimant takes the initiative himself or herself.

But both agencies are working to bring back the old times. Efforts are underway to reestablish that close relationship between the two agencies in spite of budget cuts. Although still a work in progress, plans are to reestablish a Vocational Rehabilitation office at the Commission and to give Vocational Rehabilitation access electronically to the Commission's files using the eCase system. Review of claims can be quicker, more manageable, and more thorough. Additionally, criteria for submission of cases for Vocational Rehabilitation review may be established and electronically tracked making identification of claimants needing Department's services easier. Also being explored is a program that electronically matches the names of workers' compensation claimants against Vocational Rehabilitation participants to determine how many injured workers are taking advantage of the system.

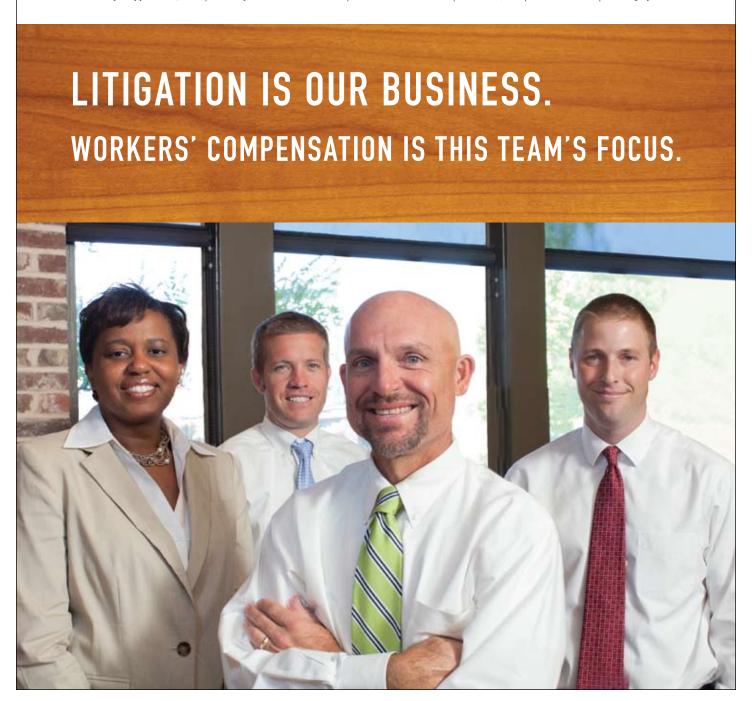
The two agencies are working to make their relationship stronger than ever, and the injured worker will be the ultimate winner. If you have any ideas to improve the system, now is the time to voice them. I'm sure Gary Cannon would love to hear from you.

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Greetings from the SCWCEA!

A very talented, creative and passionate 2011 Educational Conference Committee has been working since March for YOU!

Please plan to join us at Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation, October 16 – 19 for:

- An invigorating collection of educational sessions
- Informative speakers
- Interaction with the SC Workers' Compensation Commissioners and staff
- Networking with peers from throughout the US
- A beautiful, beachfront location
- A Kids' Chance Silent Auction greater than any you have seen
- Golf, fishing and some personal relaxation
- Continuing education credits to include ethics
- Our Workers' Comp Academy for those who need a thorough review of the SC Workers' Comp System
- Plus MUCH more!

Now is the time to register for this meeting to save on your attendance cost. The early bird deadline is Friday, September 16th. Don't let this closing date sneak up on you.

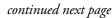
On behalf of Hal Willson, Barbara Cullum, Ric Davis, Commissioner Scott Beck, David Benehaley, Bud Clack, Suzy Cole, Donna Croom, Denise Godwin, Rusty Goudelock, Harry Gregory, Calvin Harmon, Buster Holland, Ron Jebaily, Angie Kohl, Linda Maass, Jo Lee MacLeod, Ryan Montgomery, Joyce Prichard, Ben Renfrow, Lola Richey, Commissioner Andrea Roche, Bill Smith, Matt Story, Marie Warner-Smith, Michael Swindell, Shayne Williams and myself....

We look forward to seeing you in October!

With best regards,

Clin

Chris C. Daniel







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SCWCEA Chronicles

Comp Camp: We're Ready! Are You?

The 35th Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation is planned and set to give you the latest developments in workers' compensation, in depth treatment of difficult topics, direct information from the commissioners, opportunities to meet vendors and colleagues, all in a very pleasant setting.

The conference convenes in the Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach on Sunday, October 16 and adjourns following the business meeting on Wednesday, October 19. The Embassy Suites room block sold out in less than an hour after it opened, but there are still rooms available at Kingston Plantation and within a short walk to the meetings.

Don't let your competitors get an advantage on you! Make your plans and register today! The early bird registration rate ends on September 16—click the online registration, postmark it or fax it, with full payment, by then to get the best rate. Click here for online registration.

There are a wealth of topics on the agenda, including: knee surgery, the reasons for different outcomes in similar cases, legal ethics, commissioner roundtables, employment law for employers, nurse case manager tips and ethics, adjuster ethics, shoulder surgery, Medicare issues, pain management and the mock hearing. This does not include the many tips you receive from colleagues, vendors, and other attendees in your personal conversations.





There is also social time for meeting clients, vendors, other workers' compensation professionals throughout the conference beginning Sunday evening with the Kids' Chance Silent Auction and reception, the

conference luncheon on Monday, Tuesday afternoon optional golf and fishing outings (separate registration required), Tuesday evening reception and dance, and breaks between sessions.



I Need A ...

You can find that service or product in the Exhibit Hall at Comp Camp. There are over seventy vendors who will be on site to let you know how they can serve your clients.

Exhibitors include home medical care providers, pharmacy services, hospitals, transportation providers, private investigators, attorneys, translations services, rehab providers, plan administrators, durable medical equipment providers—you get the picture.

If a company is a workers' compensation service provider, they are there to meet YOU.

Visiting the exhibit hall is a great way to learn more about the services that your clients use, could use more cost effectively, or use more conveniently. The hall will be open beginning Sunday evening at 6:00, all day Monday, and during Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

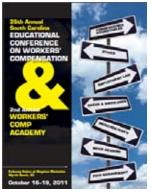


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The Westin Hotel
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Comp Camp continued



Even if you're not looking for a different or additional provider, odds are that a couple of your current service providers are in the exhibit hall. What a great chance to get some face time with your business partners in a pleasant environment. Comp Camp could be a great time to schedule a meeting between sessions.

New to Workers' Compensation? Get Up to Speed in a Hurry!

SCWCEA is again offering the Workers' Comp Academy on Monday, October 17. This is a one day soup to nuts treatment of the workers' compensation system by some of the most experienced professionals in the field. For the full agenda, click here.



Academy participants may attend this program only or as part of the entire conference experience. There is a separate registration —click here for online registration or print off the form and mail or fax it in today.

What an Opening Night!

Sunday evening is the grand kickoff for the Educational Conference. Bring your checkbook for the Kids' Chance Silent Auction and your appetite for the grand buffet. This is a great opportunity for seeing clients and friends in a fun environment. The silent auction sneak preview starts at 6:00 and the reception opens at 7:00.



There will be great items for you to bid on - previous year's items included fishing trip, vacation getaways, electronics, sports memorabilia, and household goods. In between bids, there will be plenty of chances to sample a wide array of dishes and meet your colleagues to make plans for later in the conference. See you there.





Direct From the Source to You

Ever wonder what the Workers' Compensation thinks about an issue or how they want to see a case presented? You are in luck, if you are at the Educational Conference! There are several opportunities to hear presentations from the commissioners and ask questions. Presentation topics include: why cases appear similar achieve different results; a Commission update; and roundtable discussions for claimants' attorneys, defense attorneys, employers, nurse case managers and adjusters. The mock hearing and commission update are back again, and one presentation will highlight why similar cases might have different outcomes.

continued on page 9

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Comp Camp continued



The Educational Conference is the best place to hear from the Commissioners and how you can adjust your practice to meet your client's needs.



What Are They Telling the Commission?

The Workers' Compensation Commission set up three advisory committees to develop recommendations on three separate topics: Medical Services Provider Manual, Surgical Implants, and Pharmacy Fee Schedule.

The Chairmen of these three committees will address the Educational Conference attendees during the Monday luncheon to update everyone on their progress and their potential recommendations these committees will make. Learn how these important advisory committees could affect your clients and your role in the workers' compensation system.



Holy Mackerel!!!

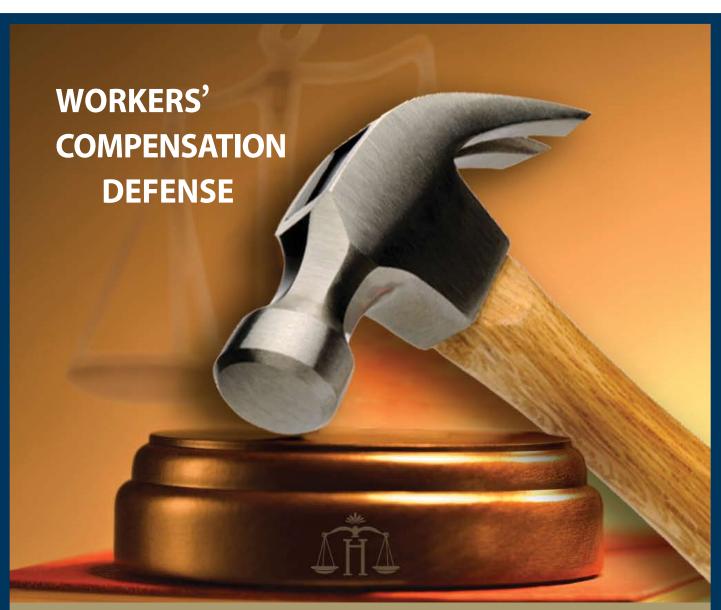
It's almost time for the best part of Comp Camp—the annual fishing trip on October 18. We will be trolling for mackerel out of Calabash. Trolling means taking turns on the poles, but that just leaves more time to concentrate on the best part of the trip, being out on the water with good company.

There is a separate registration. The cost is \$90 which includes the boat, gear, hoagie lunch, cokes, and beer. To register, go to www.scwcea.org.

Spots are limited, so don't get left on the dock.









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The Kids' Chance Silent Auction is fast approaching...and so is the deadline to donate!



Kids' Chance of SC is currently accepting donations for the annual Silent Auction to be held on October 16th kicking off the Educational Conference. Each year, Kids' Chance raises scholarship money to assist children of SC workers who have been seriously injured or killed on the job. The 2010 Silent Auction brought in over \$21,000 and we thank all of you who contributed to the success of this event! If you have not yet made your contribution this year, it's not too late to get involved!

Complete the donation form on page 13 and fax it to Angie Kohl by October 7th (843-546-5833). Drop-off your donations at one of the office locations listed on the donation form, or ship them to Kids' Chance at the address listed on the form.

No time to shop? Consider making a monetary contribution! As always, donations are tax deductible and your company will be recognized as a 2011 Contributor during the event.

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Angie Kohl (843-546-5837) or Kristen Walpole (843-849-0400).

Thank you in advance for your support of Kids' Chance!

Kristen Walpole: khuggins@thedirectionsgroup.com Angie Kohl: info@kidschancesc.org





2011 KIDS' CHANCE SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM

October 16, 2011 • Embassy Suites • Myrtle Beach, SC Federal Tax Number 57-0973253

Donor's / Contact Name: _	
Title:	Company:
Mailing Address:	
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Email:	
Description of Donation. (U	e a separate form for each item donated.)
Retail Value:	Cash Donation Amount:
ATTENTION: For hotel /	ravel packages please list all blackout dates, availability restrictions and

expiration dates, if any, with your donation. This information must be included with this form along with a letter or certificate for the buyer.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND FAX TO: <u>Angie Kohl at (843) 546-5833</u>
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Angie Kohl Executive Director Kids' Chance of SC 434 Belle Isle Road Georgetown SC, 29440

For Additional Information Contact:

Angie Kohl Kids Chance of SC (843) 546-5837 or (803) 673-1332 info@kidschancesc.org

Kristen Walpole The Directions Group (843) 849-0400 khuggins@thedirectionsgroup.com

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compensation cases in the state, has earned the group a solid reputation before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission, the various medical communities in South Carolina, and the group's attorney colleagues in both the plaintiffs' and defense bar.

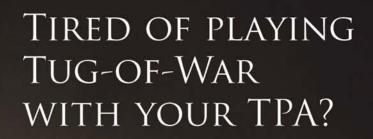




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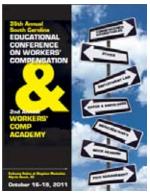
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The Westin Hotel
Hilton Head Island, SC

Welcome New Members!

The following is a listing of our new members who have joined the association since June 2011. Make certain to introduce yourself to those attending the annual conference. They will all wear a "New Member" ribbon and can easily be identified.

Christie Brinton North America Pain & Disability and Carolina Pain Associates Charlotte NC

Kevin Couch Willson Jones Carter & Baxley Greenville SC

John Croft Allen, Kopet & Associates *Greenville SC*

Betty Derrick GENEX Services, Inc. Charleston SC

Robert Elder The Medical Group *Hartsville SC*

Pam Guiles MEDSTAR Medical Management Summerville SC

Bill Hicks Strategic Comp Alpharetta GA Charlotte Johnson Gallivan White & Boyd, PA

Preston F. McDaniel McDaniel Law Firm Columbia SC

Greenville SC

D. Dusty Rhoades
D. Dusty Rhoades Attorney
Charleston SC

Christopher W. Richmond Christopher Richmond, Attorney at Law Oswego NY

Cynthia Rodriguez Eastern Alliance Charlotte NC

Robert "Rocky" Rogers Gallivan White & Boyd, PA Greenville SC

Kimberly Sansbury Sloan Construction Company Macon GA Jared Simms Gallivan White & Boyd, PA Charlotte NC

Stephania Stokes Conway SC

Sarah Verstraten Turner Padget *Greenville SC*

Steve Wall
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Sandra Walthall Eastern Alliance Charlotte NC

Shelena Wolford South East Express East Liberty OH

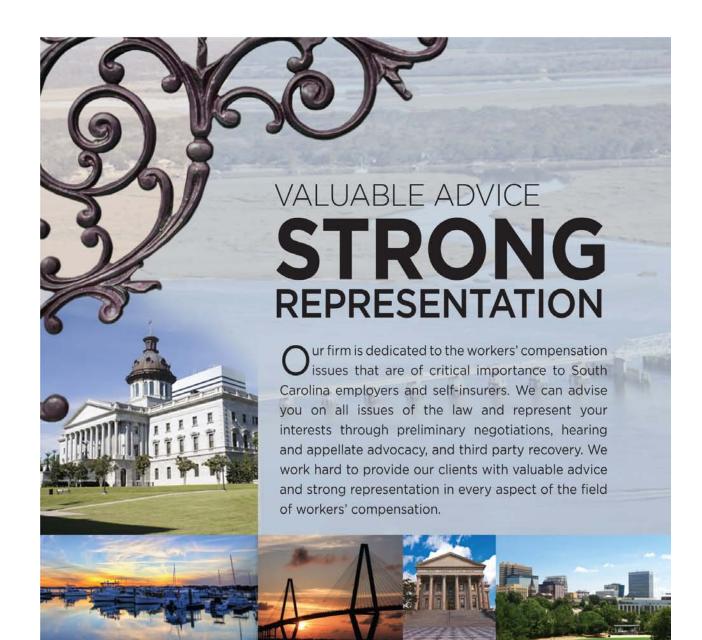
Laurie Wybenga Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Spartanburg SC

Member Updates

Carter Martling is now with Goldberg & Dohan, LLP in Columbia, SC. He was formerly with Allen Kopet and Associates.

Katharine D. "Katie" Phipps is now practicing with Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, PA in their Greenville, SC office. She was formerly with Gallivan White & Boyd, PA.

Jared Pretulak has moved to the Greenville office from Gallivan White & Boyd, PA and was formerly in Columbia with Willison Jones Carter & Baxley, PA.



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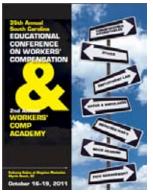
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If I told you, I'd have to kill you!

What is informative, entertaining, unique, interactive, stimulating, instructive and enjoyable? The 2012 Medical Seminar on Worker's Compensation. It will not be like any meeting you have ever attended.

Hold the dates of February 26-28, 2012 for the 32nd Annual Medical Seminar on Workers' Compensation. We are returning one more year to the Francis Marion Hotel in historic downtown Charleston, SC.

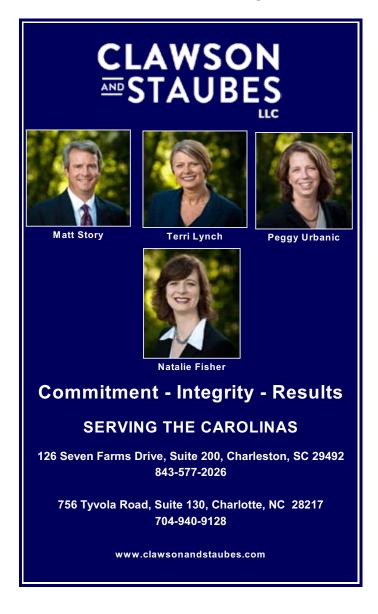
Here's a sneak peak at the topics that will be addressed:

- Spine Injuries & Spinal Cord Stimulation
- Psyche Overlay
- FCE's (Functional Capacity Evaluations)

- Pain Management
- Mock Mediation
- Mock Hearing

Other popular sessions include the Breakfast with the Commissioners and an annual update from the SC Workers' Compensation Commission.

Information on this meeting will be available very soon. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us to see what it is all about. We promise you will not have another experience like this one!





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Commission
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Charleston, SC

Seminar on Workers'

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2012 PARTNERS Program

Information will be available in November.

Thank You, 2011 PARTNERS!

The SCWCEA recognizes the following organizations who are our PARTNERS for this year. They share our commitment to providing exceptional programs and essential tools for the association's success and membership, and their dedication and financial support benefit all members of the SCWCEA. Join us in thanking them for their commitment to us this year!

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