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South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association

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Donna R. Croom
Executive Director
www.scwcea.org



**S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department
Overview of Services, 2011**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department enables eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to prepare for, achieve and maintain competitive employment. In 19 area offices, 24 work training centers, six satellite locations and two substance-abuse treatment centers, our teams of vocational rehabilitation professionals help people with disabilities find employment suitable to their abilities and interests.

Eligibility is based on a disability that significantly hinders the ability to work. Applicants also must be able to benefit from our services. Those wishing to apply should do so at the SCVRD area office nearest them. A list of locations is available at <http://areaoffices.scvrd.net>.

Last year, 44,293 clients received our services. Of those, 7,671 completed their rehabilitation and became employed at jobs paying wages competitive with those paid to people without disabilities. (Some clients need to spend multiple years with us as they progress through their rehabilitation, so we serve some of the same clients in successive years.)

Many of these clients have significant disabilities and many had never before had a job. Others, who have acquired a disability because of an accident or illness, had to learn new life skills and new job skills.

Clients who are unsure about what kind of job they want to pursue can participate in a community-based evaluation. They can shadow an employee performing a job, perform a job under a mentor, or actually try out the job themselves. These experiences help the client decide on a job goal and help our vocational assessment and career exploration specialists determine the services necessary to reach that goal.

Each client is involved in the development of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) tailored to his or her needs. The IPE outlines the services the client will need to achieve gainful employment.

Work-readiness training is available for those who need to learn work skills and

before embarking on a job search. More than 400 businesses and industries provide outsource work for SCVRD's work training centers. Clients receive a training stipend for tasks completed while participating businesses and industries have a reliable outsource partner for quality work.

Our Center for Comprehensive Services in West Columbia and the Bryant Center in the Upstate provide services for people with significant disabilities who need extra assistance to become job-ready. Physical therapy, rehabilitation technology to provide assistive devices, a brain injury program, a pain management program and entry-level training in information technology are available at these centers.

Employed individuals whose jobs may be in jeopardy because of a disability may participate in our Job Retention Services program. The confidential program is designed to help the individual stay on the job while they receive assistance.

For many years, SCVRD has been a national leader in the number of people rehabilitated. The agency strives to provide quality, client-centered services. SCVRD clients who exit the program with a successful outcome enhance their quality of life, gain independence from reliance on government benefits, and stimulate the state's economy by paying taxes, making purchases and ultimately contributing to the state's return on investment. When our clients become employed, they pay back \$3.10 in taxes for every \$1 spent on their rehabilitation.

More information is available on our web site: www.scvrd.net.



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continued next page

Why the Mail Will Stop July 1, 2011

by Nostra Boesl, Collins and Lacy, PC

Don't worry; I am not Nostradamus or Glenn Beck. I am not predicting the Federal Government will shut down because of a budget crisis (although I would not be surprised if it did), but I am predicting that mail carrying "required information" will not reach the South Carolina Second Injury Fund (SIF) after June 30, 2011. With the enactment of § 42-7-320 of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Act in the 2007 Amendments, the legislature created the Sunset provisions for the SIF. One of those provisions §42-7-320 (B)(2) provides:

An employer, self-insurer or insurance carrier must submit all required information for consideration of accepting a claim to the Second Injury Fund by June 30, 2011. Failure to submit all required information to the fund by June 30, 2011, so that the claim can be accepted, compromised or denied shall bar an employer, self-insurer or insurance carrier from recovery from the fund. (emphasis added).



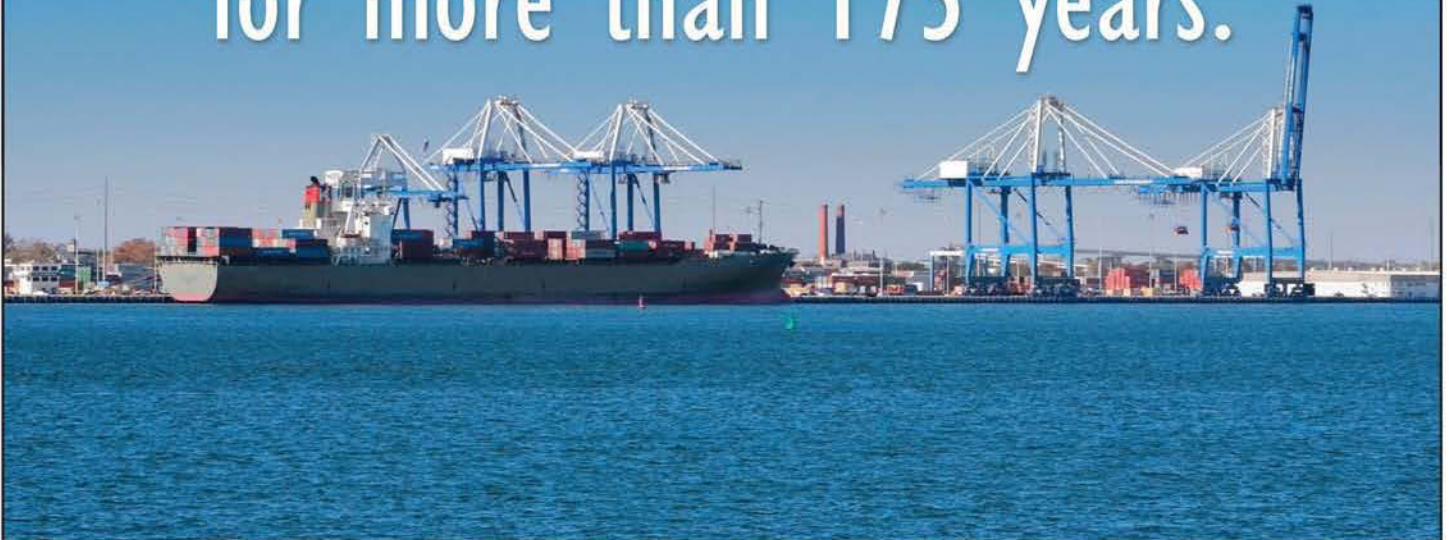
Christian E. Boesl, Esq.

What does this mean practically speaking? If you had a qualifying injury (one that meets the Act's requirements and occurred on or before June 30, 2008) and you were able to submit a notice for the claim before the December 31, 2010 deadline, then you must provide all your supporting evidence for your claim by June 30, 2011. The SIF will need your medical records, pleadings, affidavits, medical questionnaires, deposition transcripts and anything else you will need for consideration to support your claim. The SIF has verified that it will not accept any documents after June 30, 2011.

Without knowing how the Courts will interpret a challenge to this section, we recommend you submit your claims by the June 30th deadline, just to be safe. Send out your medical questionnaires, request your hearing transcripts, and send out those medical subpoenas immediately. With only days remaining, time is of the essence. Your action (or inaction) now can make the difference in an accepted claim or a denied claim after July 1. Don't be caught trying to argue to the Courts that the information you tried to send was post-marked by the June 30, 2011. The SIF interprets § 42-7-320 (B)(2) to mean the information must be received by June 30. Consider sending your records and material through some verification of receipt; certified mail, tracking or confirm receipt by telephone call or fax. You might also want to verify with the SIF what information it already has on file to make sure your previously sent material reached the fund.

No...the world won't stop turning on July 1, 2011, but your world might come crashing down if you forget to get your SIF "required information" in by June 30, 2011.

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The Workers' Compensation Practice Group at Young Clement Rivers, LLP serves employers, self-insured employers, and insurance carriers in the handling of their workers' compensation claims for state and federal benefits. The firm's decades of client advocacy handling some of the most prominent workers'

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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Comp Camp 2011 - Why Attend?

South Carolina's 35th Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation is all planned and ready to go, and to make it a successful conference, we need you to attend. We have all attended many meetings and conferences over the years, but there may not be a conference that is as informative and diversified, and has the greatest influence on your professional career as Comp Camp. Coworkers and others invited to attend the annual conference frequently reply, "why should I come?" How do you respond to these individuals? Here are some reasons to attend:

- Learn new ideas for future implementation and results.
- Stay on top of those important workers' comp issues.
- Meet in small working groups by profession to banter new ideas.
- Visit person-to-person with Commissioners, faculty and exhibitors.
- Network with your peers.
- Interact with the SCWCEA Board of Directors.
- Earn continuing education credits.
- Join in social events, both planned and informal.
- Take home a wealth of information to put to use immediately.
- Have some fun.

This year's meeting will be held Sunday, October 16 through Wednesday, October 19 at Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. This will be our last year in Myrtle Beach as the 2012 conference will move to the Westin on Hilton Head Island.

The conference will kick-off Sunday evening with a bigger than ever Kids' Chance Silent Auction and Exhibitors' Reception. All of the proceeds from this event go directly to Kids' Chance of South Carolina and benefit those students in need of financial resources for college.

The content of the 2011 program includes a wide variety of interests and issues that our members bring to the association.

Special effort went into designing a program that would bring together the professionals in the workers' compensation community to share and reflect on key topics relevant to everyone. Charlene Caswell will provide us with an inspirational and motivating story "To Walk Again!" which is a reminder to us all that the system does work!

Here's a sneak peek at other session topics for October:

- Look Alikes – cases that appear identical in nature but are very different
- Roundtable discussions with Commissioners of the SC Workers' Compensation Commission
- Attorney Ethics (2 hours)
- Adjuster Ethics (1 hour)
- Case Manager Ethics (1 hour)
- Communication techniques for Nurse Case Managers and Adjusters
- Employment Law
- Shoulders
- Knees
- Medicare
- Pain Management

Professional development is just one of the reasons why you should attend this year's SCWCEA Annual Educational Conference. We will be offering ethics hours for attorneys, adjusters and case managers. General CLEs/CEUs will be awarded by CCMC, CDMS, CRCC, Prometric, the North Carolina Bar and the South Carolina Supreme Court.

This year's schedule provides an abundant amount of time for you to meet with exhibitors. Breaks have been extended to 30 minutes so you can make time to learn about the vendors, their products and services. We will also be giving away a 52" flat screen TV and two large cash prizes for participating in the Bingo Card drawing.

Back by popular demand, **The SC Workers' Comp Academy**. That's right. If you were not able to participate in this one day in-depth study on workers compensation in South Carolina, here's your chance. If you are new to workers' comp or would just like a refresher, this is a perfect way to gain the information you need.

Problem solved.

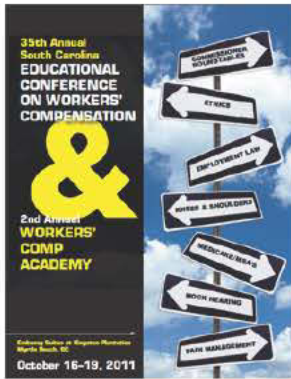


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More Dates of Note

July 15th is the deadline to join/renew in order to receive discounted member rate at the Annual Educational Conference

September 29, 2011
Claims Administration Workshop
SC Workers' Compensation Commission

February 26-28, 2012
33rd Annual Medical Seminar on Workers' Compensation
Francis Marion Hotel
Charleston, SC

October 13-16, 2012
36th Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation
The Westin Hotel
Hilton Head Island, SC

Comp Camp 2011 *continued*

The SC Workers' Comp Academy will be held on Monday, October 17 only and pre-registration is required.

And of course, the optional activities will provide another chance for you to relax and network. The **Annual Golf Tournament** will be held at Arcadian Shores. Slots and hole sponsorships are available.

For our anglers, the **Annual Fishing Expedition** will depart and return to Little River as it has in the past. Participation in these events requires an extra fee and pre-registration.

Plan now to attend the 35th Annual Educational Conference, and do it with a well-planned and organized schedule. Set a goal to meet and get to know 10 to 20 new people that you may know only by name.

You will learn a lot in the informal sessions and in the hallways that can't be learned in a formal setting. Details and registration information will be available in the next few weeks.

Don't forget that your membership must be paid by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 15th (no exceptions) in order to receive the discounted member registration rate!

See you in Myrtle Beach!

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Stephanie Lamb



Bill Shaughnessy



Shayne Williams

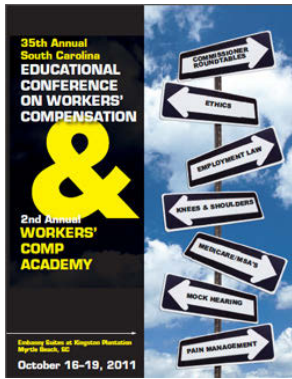
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The Westin Hotel
Hilton Head Island, SC

Welcome New Members!

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

William B. Bivens
Feather Case Management
& Consulting LLC
Bluffton SC

Timothy Clardy
The Dennison Law Firm,
P.C.
Greenville SC

Amber Dorrell
Dickie, McCamey &
Chilcote, PC
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Roland Fontanares
Clemson Sports Medicine
and Rehabilitation
Clemson SC

Shelby Kellahan
Huff Law Firm, LLC
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Allen, Kopet & Associates
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Luzuriaga Mims, LLP
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Chris Mason
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PA
Greenville SC

Brian P. McElreath
Luzuriaga Mims, LLP
Charleston SC

Caroline C. McIntosh
Luzuriaga Mims, LLP
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Kevin W. Mims
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Charleston SC

Miriam T. Mitchell
Beaufort County
Government
Beaufort SC

Donna Pace
Williamston SC

Elizabeth Render
McAngus Goudelock &
Courie LLC
Columbia SC

D. Dusty Rhodes
D. Dusty Rhodes Attorney
Charleston SC

Cathy C. Rogers
Spartanburg Regional
Healthcare System
Spartanburg SC

Kimberly Sansbury
Sloan Construction
Company
Macon GA

Greg Shue
Advantage Surveillance
Thomasville NC

Susan Singler
Integrated Care
Management
Lexington SC

Marilyn Sizemore
Lowcountry Orthopaedics
& Sports Medicine
North Charleston SC

Erica Smalls
Richland County
Recreation Commission
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Corvel Corporation
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John Steven
Rodenberg
Richard Wern Lawyers
N. Charleston SC

Melissa Syracuse
Richard Wern Lawyers
N. Charleston SC

Russell Thomson
Allen, Kopet & Associates
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Nicole Turner
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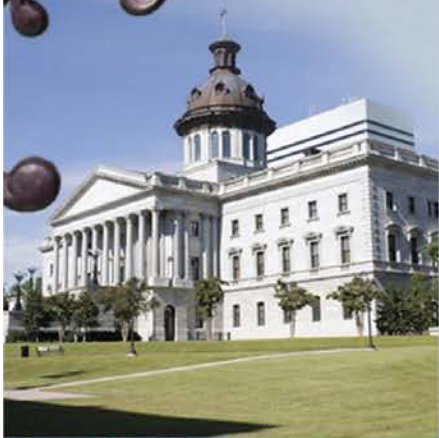
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Jon Wellington
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North Charleston SC

Josh Williams
Litigation Solutions, LLC
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Dedicated

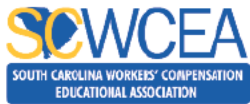
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Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities

The SCWCEA will be hosting the 35th Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation, October 16 – 19 in Myrtle Beach, SC. We are offering numerous sponsorship opportunities for you to get your name out in front a large group of Workers' Comp professionals during this conference.

All sponsors will be recognized in the conference program, from the podium and through signage at the selected event(s). Please select your choices early!

Kid's Chance and Exhibitor Silent Auction Reception — Partial event sponsorship at \$500 (total 30)

- 1 Break Sponsorship at \$500
- 2 Break Sponsorships at \$1,000

I would prefer to sponsor a beverage break on the following day(s):

- Monday, October 17 Morning Afternoon
- Tuesday, October 18 Morning
- Wednesday, October 19 Morning

Golf Hole Sponsorship at \$250 (only 4 remaining)

- Includes posted sign at designated hole with company name. Companies will be allowed to host a tent at their designated hole during the tournament.

Golf Beverage Cart Sponsorship at \$500 (multiples companies allowed)

- Host the beverage cart during the golf tournament. Company representatives allowed on cart.

Name Badge Lanyard Sponsorship at \$1,500

- Lanyards with your company name will be worn by everyone during the conference.

Conference Bags Sponsorship at \$4,000

- Put your logo on the conference bag that will house all meeting materials.

SOLD

Hotel Room Key Sponsor at \$2,000– only One(1) available

- 1,000 room keys displaying your company name or logo

Inside/Front Cover advertisement in conference program \$1,000 (only 1 available)

Inside/Back Cover advertisement in conference program \$1,000 (only 1 available)

Full Page advertisement in conference program at \$1,000

Half Page advertisement in conference program at \$500 (vertical or horizontal)

Quarter Page advertisement in conference program at \$250 (vertical or horizontal)

Please note: The SCWCEA reserves the right to refuse/decline ad content or artwork.

The deadline for annual conference sponsorship is **September 1, 2011**. Individuals purchasing advertisements will be notified of the required specifications and deadlines on artwork. No company will receive recognition unless all fees are paid in full in advance of the meeting

Please list EXACT way your company is to be listed on all printed materials.

Company	Contact
Address	City/State/Zip
Phone	Fax
	Email
	Website

Payment Information

Check Enclosed (made payable to SCWCEA) VISA MasterCard

Credit Card Number	Expiration
--------------------	------------

Credit Card Billing Address <small>(where monthly statements are received)</small>	Total Charge Amount
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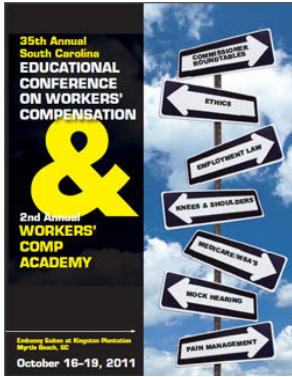
We *manage* your claims, not just handle them. And we're quick to respond to all types of claims – from workers compensation and property to auto and liability.

And with **Companion Workplace Health**, our Managed Care Organization, you get comprehensive bill and case management review – *and* accurate management reports – so you can measure results.

With **Companion TPA**, you have a professional, experienced staff on *your* side. So if your TPA isn't willing to give a little to meet your needs – call us at 1-800-845-2724, ext. 46672.

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Companion TPA is licensed in Georgia and does work throughout the Southeast.



Visit the website
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More Dates of Note

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Worth Noting...

Membership Deadline Fast Approaching

2011 memberships must be current and paid in full by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 15, 2011 in order to receive the discounted member rate for this year's conference. If there are staff changes to your organization, now is the time to update this information. To join or renew, please download and complete the form on our website so that we have current contact information in our database.

Guest Articles/Advertising for *Chronicles*

We are always looking for story ideas and submissions. Advertising space is also available for our Fall and Winter newsletters. The cost is \$500 for a full page and \$250 for a half page. Please contact Donna Croom at 803.407.3360 or at scwcea@bellsouth.net regarding specifications and placement. The deadline for submitting both articles and ads in order to appear in our Fall edition is August 15, 2011.

ONLY 26 Exhibit Booths available for Comp Camp!

Don't delay, vendor space is almost full for this year's annual meeting. You may download information by clicking here. No booths will be processed until full payment is received.

An Update on Members.....

Linda Maass is now with Key Risk in their Columbia, SC office. She was formerly with Companion Property & Casualty Group.

Elizabeth Render is now practicing at McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC in their Columbia, SC office. She was formerly with Huff Law Firm, LLC.

Changed jobs? Received a new professional designation or achievement? We'd love to let our members know this information. You may email information for inclusion in future newsletters to scwcea@bellsouth.net.

Big case

- Review 12-A
 - Take statements
 - Request medical records
 - Call Ellis Lawhorne
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Workers' Compensation Commission

May 13, 2011

NOTICE ADVISORY

FORM 14B (PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT)

This a Commission Advisory Notice clarifying the requirements for filing a Form 14B (Physician's Statement).

Background

The Form 14B (Physician's Statement) was created as a result of the change in §42-15-60 in 2007. It is governed by Regulations 67-802 and 67-803. The change added paragraph (B) (1), which relates to continued medical care and treatment. For injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2007 the Form 14B must indicate whether or not future medical care and treatment will be required. This is a requirement for settlements on the Commission's Agreement for Permanent Disability/Disfigurement form.

Requirements

The Jurisdictional Commissioner requires a Form 14B or a physician's narrative report when considering Final Agreement and Release documents where the Claimant is not represented by Counsel. The 14B or the narrative report must indicate the need for future medical care and treatment in order to properly consider the agreement.

Form 14B or a narrative report from the treating physician is required for proper filing by the Defense to request stop payment of compensation citing the Claimant has reached maximum medical improvement.

A Form 14B is not required as documentation for the filing of a Form 21 (Employer's Request for Hearing).

If you have any questions regarding this notice or the proper filing of form or documents with the Commission, please contact Virginia Crocker, Judicial Director, (803) 737-5739 or vcrocker@wcc.sc.gov.



*The attorneys of Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, P.A.
Providing workers' compensation defense throughout the Carolinas*

Front from left to right: 1st row Jeff Jones, Tracy Tiddy, Sarah Alphin, Morgan McQueeney, Shannon Poteat, Allison Carter, Michael Burkett. 2nd row: Strat Stavrou, Neal Collins, Ben Renfrow, Lynnley Ross, Kenny Coble, Katie Veatch, Anne Noonan, LeAnne McCormack, Candy Hindersman. 3rd row: Richard Kale, Mitch Byrd, Richard Turner, Johnnie Baxley, George Miars, Jared Pretulak, Will Littlejohn, Jason Griggs. 4th row: Zach Smith, Brenn Watson, Hal Willson, Michael Petit, Gabe Coggiola, South Lewis, Franklin Guerrero.

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Workers' Compensation Commission

May 13, 2011

Commission Votes to Appoint an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to Review Pharmacy Fee Schedule

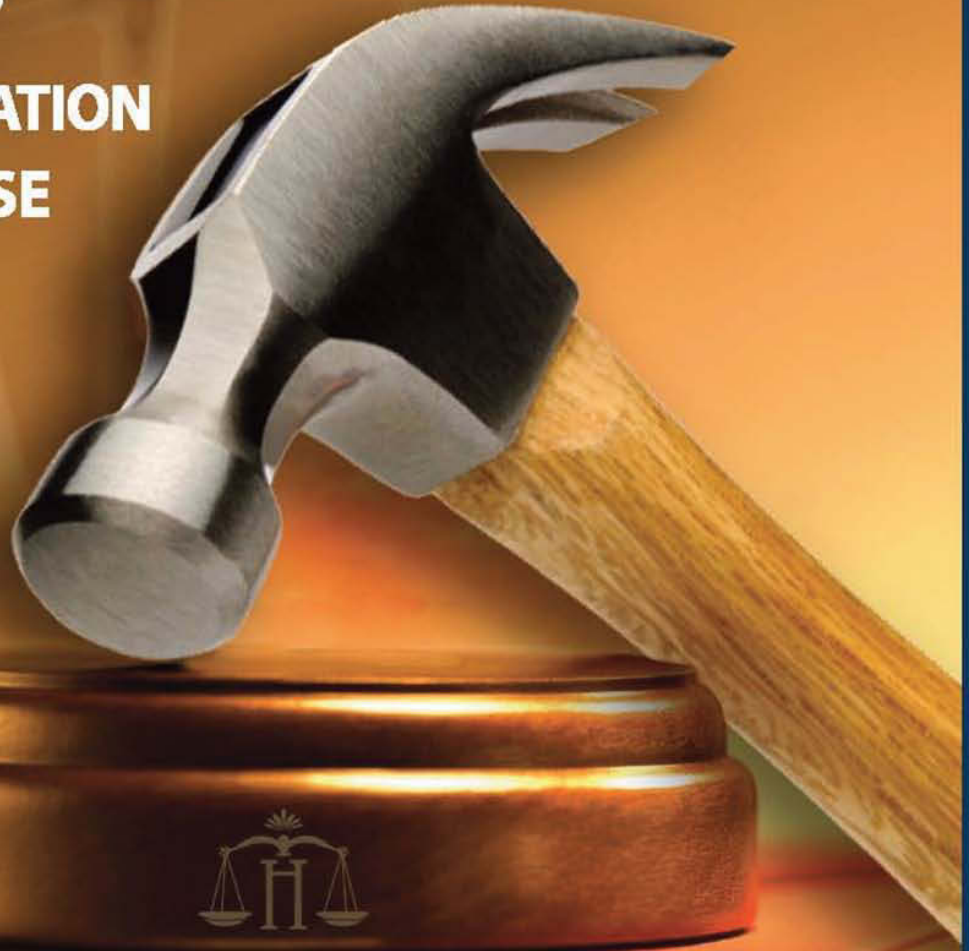
At its March 21, 2011 business meeting the Commission received a request from Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) and American Insurance Association (AIA) to review the Pharmacy Fee Schedule section of the Medical Services Provider Manual. The current policy states payment for prescription drugs is limited to the average wholesale price (AWP) plus \$5.00 dispensing fee.

The Commission voted to appoint an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to look at the Pharmacy Fee Schedule section of the Medical Services Provider Manual. Representatives from various stakeholders will be appointed including, but not limited to, pharmaceutical manufacturers, insurance carriers, business representatives, claims management services, and medical professionals.

For additional information concerning this announcement, please contact:

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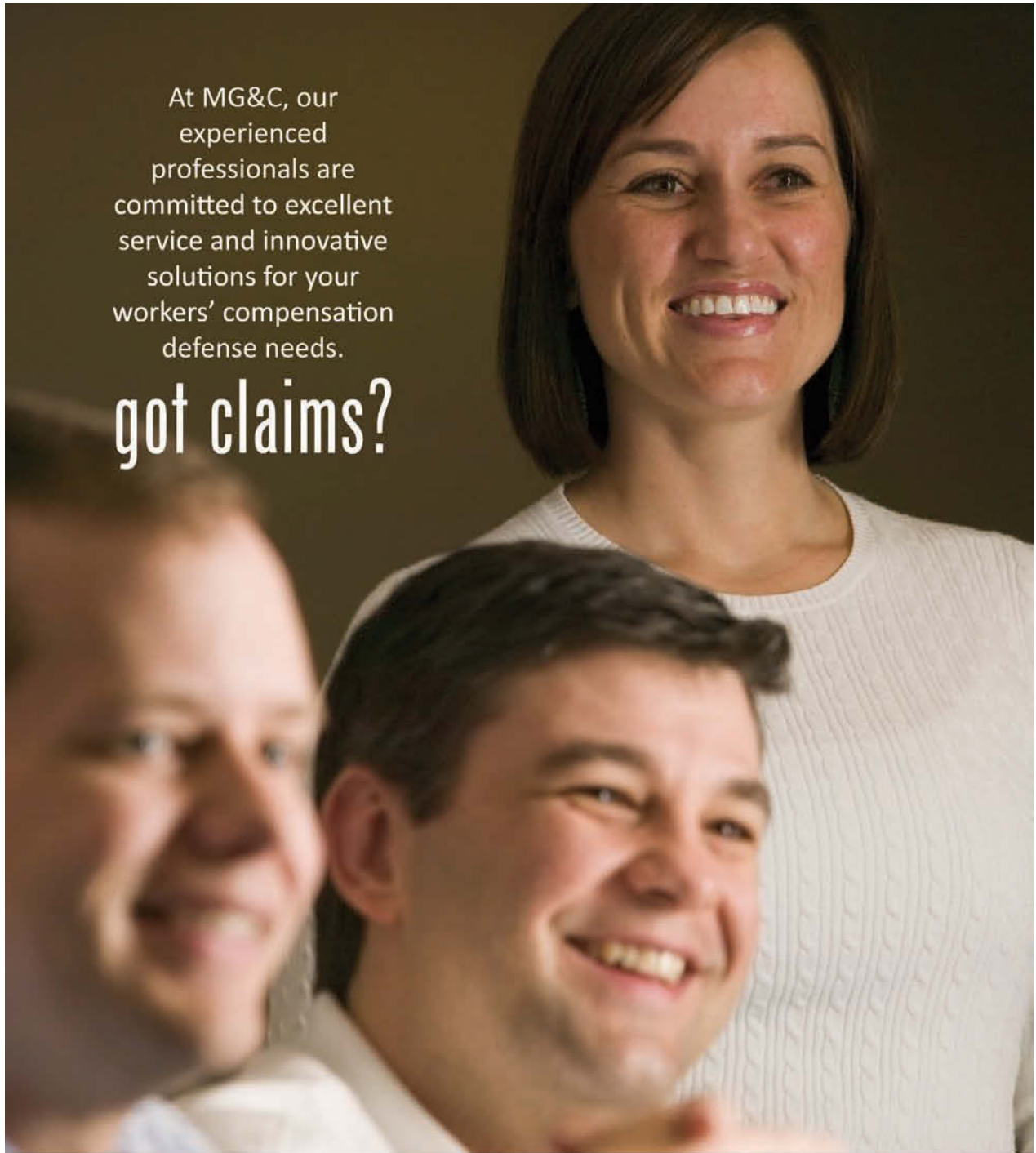
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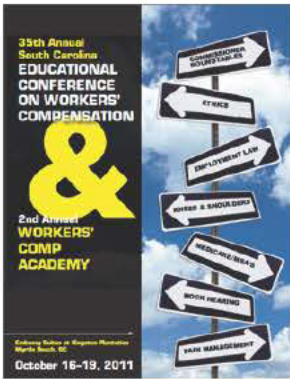


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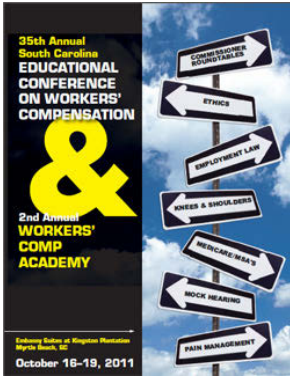
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More Dates of Note

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September 29, 2011
Claims Administration Workshop
 SC Workers' Compensation Commission

February 26-28, 2012
33rd Annual Medical Seminar on Workers' Compensation
 Francis Marion Hotel
 Charleston, SC

October 13-16, 2012
36th Annual Educational Conference on Workers' Compensation
 The Westin Hotel
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