

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2015 at 10:30 AM**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Joann Fratianni
Mario Basurto
Michael Brennan
Charles DeVriendt
David Gore
Kevin Lamborn
Thomas Tyrrell

Present by telephone:

Joshua Luskin
Stephen Mathis
Ruth White

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Dennie Michelle Mogensen, Deputy General Counsel

Chairman Joann Fratianni called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Commissioner Mathis and seconded by Commissioner Brennan and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from meeting held on March 31, 2015.

Chairman Fratianni first addressed old business. Commissioners Brennan and Mathis are reviewing proposed rules from Insurance Compliance and Self-Insurance. Additionally, they are working with IT as they hope to have a catch all rule that would allow for electronic filing once the commission is technologically there. The Commissioners have already gone through the original rules and modified many of them, but will have more suggestions for rule changes in the near future. Thus far, one of the biggest areas of contention is changing the 2:00 pm Chicago call.

Chairman Fratianni next addressed new business. She noted that the IWCC now has a new Collinsville office that is opening in October. The Commission is in the process of putting together the downstate calendar, so Commissioners should work with Kate Melford and Bob Devereaux to make sure there are no conflicts. The Chairman is asking for one oral argument per year per panel in the Collinsville hearing site.

The next item of business is that the Commission is running out of postage. The IWCC spends between \$90,000 and \$100,000 per year on postage. The Commission may need to go back to the days of handing out decisions by hand. However, based on an informal poll, the majority of the parties expressed an interest in receiving decisions via email. At the Arbitrator level, we are asking parties to submit an email and sign off on the stip sheet that they waive certified mail. We are also asking that they put the waiver on the record. At the Commission level, there are 70-90 decisions pending that are already tried, so we need to get email addresses to try and get cases out.

Additionally, the IWCC is working to alleviate the situation in Joliet, but will have to shift everyone in January. The Chairman is trying to figure out how to do floaters for New Lennox and Collinsville, but it may create havoc from an IT standpoint. The immediate concern is getting the new Arbitrators trained, but by the beginning of the year, we will hopefully be able to address the idea of floaters in problem areas.

There was a motion by Commissioner Lamborn, seconded by Commissioner DeVriendt, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am.