

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Board Members Present In Person

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Deborah Simpson

Board Members Present via WebEx

Commissioner Deborah Baker
Commissioner Carolyn Doherty
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Christopher Harris
Commissioner Stephen Mathis
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Thomas Tyrrell

IWCC staff present at the meeting:

Cole D. Garrett, Deputy General Counsel (WebEx)
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Manager Research and Education
Annette Roti, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman
Andrew Schafer, Law Clerk

On December 19, 2022 at 10:01AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the Workers' Compensation Commission Meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and verified a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for the September 19, 2022 Board Meeting had been circulated. Commissioner Tyrrell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Mathis seconded the motion, and the motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022 Board Meeting carried unanimously.

As to old business, Chairman Brennan advised that the Springfield office move is scheduled for January 9, 2023 and arbitration hearings and oral arguments will be held in Springfield in the upcoming months.

As to new business, Chairman Brennan also announced that six arbitrators will be transferred effective January 1st. This is happening because of the statute, and to make sure a system is in place before the Workers' Comp Strategy team leaves in January.

Next, Cole Garrett gave an update about the rule changes. He has been working with JCAR and the IWCC rules should be ready for the mid- January Meeting.

Chairman Brennan informed the Board Members that a rules committee has been formed to explore issues regarding attorney charges, and that Commissioners Doherty and Doerries are part of this committee. Bill Lowry's law firm prepared an in-depth memo regarding the legislative history, and he will be sharing that memo with the committee. Discussion ensued regarding the need for uniformity, and whether there needs to be a rule or education on the subject. No decisions have been made, and the next rule committee meeting will be in the new year.

Chairman Brennan asked the members if anyone had any new or old business to discuss. There was none.

Chairman Brennan asked if there was any member of the public on the call. There being none, he asked if there was a Motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Doherty moved to adjourn, Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.