

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER
100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET – 9TH FLOOR, ROOM 9-036
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2014**

Present at the meeting:

Acting Chairman Ronald Rascia
Michael Carrigan

**Present at Satellite Location (Room 500 1/2 , 5th Floor, Stratton Building, 401 S. Spring St.,
Springfield, IL 62765)**

Mitchell Abbett
Mark Denzler
Commissioner Stephen Mathis

Participating via telephone:

Richard Aleksy
Aaron Anderson
Philip Gruber
David Halffield
Robert Karr
William Lowry
Mark Prince
Sean Stott

IWCC staff present:

Mike Arnold

Acting Chairman Rascia called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. He noted the lack of a quorum and announced that he would still give remarks to the members assembled in Chicago, in Springfield, and on the telephone. However, the board would not vote to approve prior meetings' minutes or transact any other business.

Acting Chairman Rascia expressed thanks for the service of former Chairman Michael Latz, and he noted that the Commission looks forward to working with the next administration. He then informed Board members that four new arbitrators were now in place – Michael Nowak downstate and Steven Fruth, Stephen Friedman, and Maria Bocanegra in Chicago. Further, the Commission has opened up two new arbitration sites – the Kankakee Library and Elgin Community College. Kankakee will join New Lenox and Ottawa as a zone, and Elgin will join Wheaton and Geneva as another zone. This means that there will be no Chicago arbitrators splitting time with a Wheaton call.

Acting Chairman Rascia next discussed the recent reports from NCCI, WCRI, and the State of Oregon regarding workers' compensation insurance premiums. The NCCI report indicated that their advisory rate will fall 5% for next year and that since the 2011 reform bill the rate has fallen by 19%. The WCRI report found that medical expenses in Illinois have fallen 24% since the 2011 reform bill. The Oregon report noted that Illinois' insurance premiums decline has been at a rate in the last three years that is competitive with other states.

Acting Chairman Rascia lastly gave an update on the Commission's efforts to determine current liabilities of the Rate Adjustment Fund. The Commission has prepared a report listing all identified liabilities and is working with the Attorney General's Office to secure permission from the circuit court in Cook County to use money from the Chamber of Commerce litigation settlement fund to pay these liabilities.

Mark Denzler moved to adjourn the meeting, Michael Carrigan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.