

PLAN TO ATTEND!

2026 MWCEA CONFERENCE FOR THE WIN

THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION PLAYBOOK

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF CHAMPIONING MWCEA
SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2026**

**ASHORE HOTEL & RESORT
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND**

The 40th Annual MWCEA Conference brings Maryland's workers' compensation community together for three days of education, collaboration, and industry engagement.

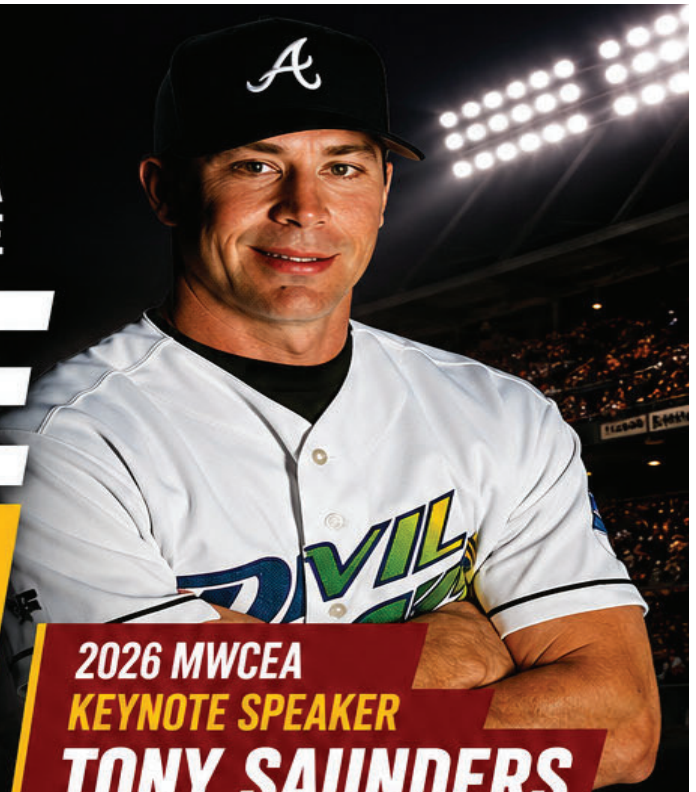
This milestone year celebrates four decades of strengthening the workers' compensation "playbook," uniting employers, attorneys, claims professionals, medical providers, rehabilitation specialists, and industry partners to address the real-world challenges shaping Maryland's system today.



**MWCEA XL
40TH ANNIVERSARY
BIG DANCE!**

**WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE JERSEY
OR DRESS AS A
SUPER FAN**

and enjoy a night of live music and celebrating at the MWCEA XL 40th Anniversary at the Big Dance!



2026 MWCEA KEYNOTE SPEAKER **TONY SAUNDERS**

Step up to the plate with Tony Saunders, former World Series pitcher, as he shares a powerful story of resilience, overcoming injury, and proving that the biggest wins happen off the mound.

KEY CONFERENCE TOPICS INCLUDE:



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



BRAIN INJURY CLAIMS



**RECENT CASES &
EMERGING TRENDS**



RETURN-TO-WORK STRATEGIES

REGISTER NOW!

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
ENDS JULY 10, 2026**



**SCAN TO
REGISTER!**

www.mwcea.net

EDUCATE. CONNECT. COLLABORATE. *Let's Win Together.*

REGISTRATION | EXHIBITS | NETWORKING | EDUCATION

MWCEA Conference Agenda

Sunday, September 27

2:00 – 8:00 p.m. REGISTRATION (Atrium Level)

2:00 – 6:00 p.m. EXHIBITOR SETUP

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. OPENING RECEPTION (Atlantic Ballroom)

Join colleagues for the kick-off networking reception for the MWCEA Conference.

Sponsored by: Franklin & Prokopik, P.C.

Monday, September 28

7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. REGISTRATION (Atrium Level)

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Lower Exhibits)

7:00 a.m. EXHIBITS OPEN

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. OPENING REMARKS (Atlantic Ballroom)

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Angela Garcia Kozlowski, Esq., Franklin & Prokopik, P.C.

WCC CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Hon. Asha Joseph Jefferson, Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission

8:45 – 9:15 a.m. Legislative Update

Remarks by legislative members of the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight, and presentation of 2026 proposed and passed legislation impacting workers' compensation in Maryland.

Moderator: Ashlee K. Smith, Esq., The Law Office of Ashlee K. Smith

Panel: James A. Lanier, Esq., Warnken, LLC

Julie D. Murray, Esq., Semmes

9:15 a.m. KIDS' CHANCE OF MARYLAND UPDATE

Edgar G. Dodd, III, President, Kids' Chance of Maryland

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Former Major League Baseball pitcher Tony Saunders brings a powerful message of resilience and comeback after a career-altering injury. His story reminds us that recovery isn't just physical—it's about grit, growth, and grace under pressure.

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. EXHIBITOR BREAK

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Head in the Game: Navigating Brain Injuries in Workers' Comp This session examines the complexities of brain injuries in workers' compensation claims, including diagnosis, treatment pathways, long-term impacts, and strategies for coordinated case management.

Moderators: Erin Cornett, Excelsia Injury Care and Monique Lee, Esq., ChasenBoscolo

Panel: Krista DeSmyter, Esq., ChasenBoscolo

Mohammed Alwahaidy, MD, Excelsia Injury Care

Jamie DeSisto, Esq., Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP

Commissioner: The Hon. Tracey Parker Warren

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Getting Back in the Game A discussion on effective return-to-work strategies, rehabilitation approaches, and collaborative methods to support injured workers in achieving successful recovery and reintegration.

Moderator: Shelby Dubato, LCSW-C, CCM, CDMS, CLCP, CRC, MalcolmDubato, LLC

Panel: Karla Alberty, PT, Rehab at Work

Brian Eberle, Director of Risk Management & Safety, Keystone Quality Transport/Lifestar Response

Savas Georgas, Esq., Law Office of Mitchel M. Gordon

Dawn Malone, CCM, CDMS, MCRSP, Opus Medical

Jim Turner, Esq., GodwinTirocchi, LLC

Commissioner: The Hon. Stephane P. Romano

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Full Court Press: Navigating Jury Trials & Appeals (Breakout Room) Step onto the litigation court for a fast-paced, deep dive

Monday, September 28 cont.

into the world of workers' compensation appeals. In this panel, seasoned practitioners will break down what it takes to carry momentum from the Commission through appeal and ultimately secure a win. From appeal strategy and trial practice tips to jury selection and evidentiary calls, this session will equip attendees with practical tools to stay on offense and avoid costly turnovers. Come ready to huddle up, analyze key plays, and elevate your approach to workers' compensation appeals.

Moderator: Fatima H. Garland, Esq., Office of the Montgomery County Attorney

Panel: Christina Caron-Moroney, Esq., Mike Miller Law

Rachel Gebhart, Esq., Godwin Tirocchi, LLC

Commissioner: The Hon. Kenrick F. Roberts

12:00 – 12:15 p.m. Break

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Liensanity How to Raise Your Game for Third Party Claims This session will provide workers' compensation professionals with practical strategies for identifying and leveraging third party involvement in workplace injury claims. When a non employer party—such as another driver, a product manufacturer, or a property owner—may be responsible for an employee's injury, additional recovery opportunities may exist beyond traditional workers' compensation benefits. Participants will be provided an overview of third-party claims generally with a focus on recovery and workers' compensation lien reimbursement.

Moderators: Nancy Courson Cooke, Esq., The Law Offices of Dirska & Levin, LLC and Luz Neighoff, Aon Risk Solutions

Panel: Gregory J. Eichelman, Esq., Dirska and Levin

Mark C. Miller, Esq., Blondell, Miller, Schuler

Nancy O'Neil, Hogan & Hartson LLP

Commissioner: The Hon. James R. Forrester

2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Kids' Chance Cornhole Event

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Monday Night Huddle

Join your colleagues for live music, dancing and networking!

SPONSORED BY: ChasenBoscolo

Tuesday, September 29

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. REGISTRATION (Atrium Level)

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Lower Exhibits)

7:00 a.m. EXHIBITS OPEN

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Recent Cases, New Cases, Fresh Plays: What's Changing the Field This session reviews recent case law developments and emerging legal trends, offering practical insights into how new decisions are shaping workers' compensation practice.

Moderator: Lyndsey B. Meninger, Esq., MBA, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company / Injured Workers Insurance Fund

Panel: Matthew Engler, Esq., BSG Law

Lauren Waltrop, Esq., Humphreys, McLaughlin & McAleer, LLC

Commissioner: The Hon. Kathleen A. Evans

9:45 – 10:30 a.m. Not Just Back in the Game – Back to Work and Life: Limb Loss, Prosthetics, and Catastrophic Claims A discussion regarding traumatic limb loss, technological advancements in prosthetics, return to function/employment and the associated catastrophic claims.

Moderators: Eric Buchner, MD, CIME, Rehabilitation Institute at Sinai and Matthew D. Gordon, Esq., Law Offices of Mitch Gordon

Panel: Kimberly Baker, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company

Scott E. Brown, MD, MA, Rehabilitation Institute at Sinai

Dennis Haun, BS, CPO, Metro Prosthetics

Commissioner: The Hon. Delia Turano Schadt

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. The Alfred Porth Award / Break

10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Independent Contractors – Free Agents in the Workplace This session examines the evolving landscape of independent contractor classifications, legal standards, and the implications for workers' compensation coverage and claims.

Moderator: Michael J. Harrison, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Uninsured Employers' Fund

Panel: Theodore M. Ehudin, Esq., Workers' Comp Law Firm, LLC

Natalie Johnson, JD, Assistant Attorney General, Uninsured Employers' Fund

Andrew Nichols, J.D., Horman Nichols, LLC

Sarah Parker, MBA, AINS, AU, CBIA, Chesapeake Employers Insurance Company

Commissioner: The Hon. Allan H. Kittleman

MWCEA Conference Agenda

Tuesday, September 29 cont.

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Bottom of the Ninth: Settlements and MSAs
A practical discussion on settlement strategies, Medicare Set Asides, and navigating the intricacies of complex claims.

Moderator: Anthony F. Perrotta, Esq., MD Subsequent Injury Fund

Panel: Jodi Taylor, Esq., Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company

Steven C. Rohan, Esq., Rohan Law Firm, LLC

Jeremy Papp, Compliance Manager, Allan Koba Medicare Compliance Solutions

Commissioner: The Hon. James K. MacAlister

12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and Learn – Hail Mary Cases This session explores challenging claims that require creative problem solving, strategic coordination, and innovative approaches to achieve resolution.

Moderators: Matthew Drzik, MS, CWPE, REHAB AT WORK and Merissa Hall, Esq., Erlandson Daney

Panel: Stefanie Dubicki, CRC, MCRSP, Opus Medical

Sherri Warner Halligan, Sedgwick

Katherine Nalley, Heller & Pendergrass

Matt Trollinger, Esq., Trollinger Law

Commissioner: The Hon. Howard L. Metz

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Kids' Chance One Mile Fun Run/Walk (Beach side/Hotel)

8:00 – 11:00 p.m. MWCEA XL Celebration Dancing, Refreshments (Atlantic Ballroom) Wear your favorite jersey or dress as a super fan and enjoy a night of live music, dancing, and celebration at the MWCEA XL 40th Anniversary Big Dance!

SPONSORED BY: Dr. Jeffrey D. Gaber & Associates, P.A.

Wednesday, September 30

8:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet Opens

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with the Commissioners

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission Report
The WCC Chair provides updates on Commission operations, initiatives, and developments impacting the workers' compensation system.

Speaker: The Hon. Asha Joseph Jefferson, Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

NEW IN 2026

The Frank Lipshultz Insurance Adjuster Grant provides travel support and complimentary registration for adjusters.

Apply by July 1, 2026



CONFERENCE LODGING

ASHORE RESORT OCEAN CITY

Now Part of the Marriott Family of Hotels
(Conference Headquarters)

ashoresorttooceancity.com

10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Please note: The hotel requires cancellations to be made at least seven (7) days prior to arrival.

OVERFLOW HOTELS:

CAROUSEL RESORT 800-641-0011

PRINCESS ROYALE 800-476-9253

TRANSPORTATION

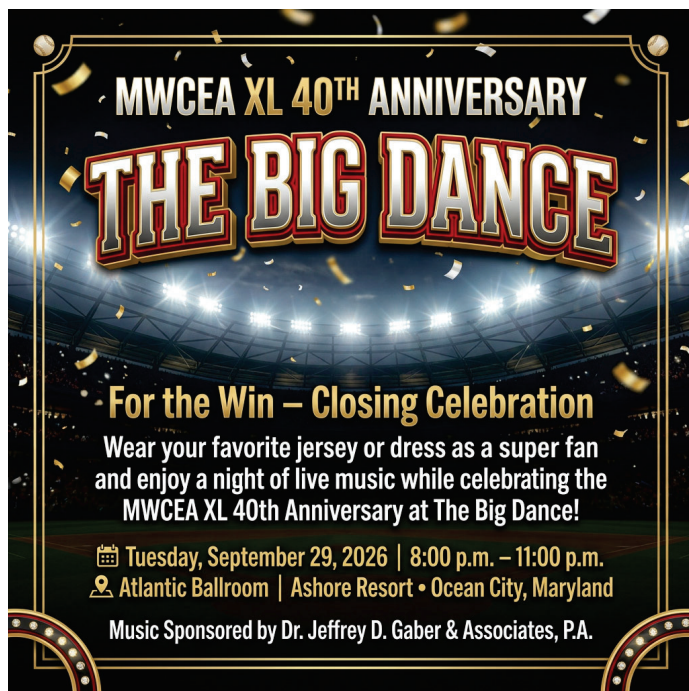
Transcend Services, Inc. is offering a complimentary shuttle service from the overflow hotels to the host hotel.

The shuttle runs every 15 minutes during the times indicated:

Monday & Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Other times can be requested...



It's Never Too Early to Plan Ahead
Sept. 26-29, 2027

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors

(as of 5/1/26)

2026 Premier Sponsors:

Support Claim Services & Prime Physicians Group

Promgram Mailer: Semmes

Opening Reception: Franklin & Prokopik

Conference Bags: Excelsia Injury Care

Monday Evening Social: ChasenBoscolo

Lanyards: Mid-Maryland Musculoskeletal Institute

Hotel Shuttle: Transcend Services, Inc.

Registration Staff: Workers' Compensation Commission

Monday Photo Booth: GodwinTirocchi, LLC

Tuesday Photo Booth: Erlandson, Vernon & Daney, LLC

Contact us at info@mwcea.net for additional sponsorship opportunities!



REGISTER NOW!



MWCEA Direct Mailer Sponsor

MCRSP CERTIFICATION

Rehabilitation Service Providers:

- The Maryland Rehabilitation Service Providers Program will offer MCRSP CEU credit for each day of the conference.
- Participants who wish to qualify must sign the daily attendance sheet located near Registration.
- Attendance will be verified, and CEU certificates will be mailed after the conference.

CE CREDITS (CRC, CDMS, CCM)

- These certifications have been pre-approved for CEU credit.
- To receive credit, attendees must sign in each day.
- Certificates will be mailed once attendance has been confirmed.

OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE LETTER

- MWCEA provides an official attendance letter for participants who require documentation for continuing education in fields not covered by the CEU programs above.
- To request a letter, please notify the Registration Desk during check-in.
- A \$10 fee (check or credit card payable to MWCEA) is required.
- This letter does not serve as verification for WCC credits or CEUs such as CCM, CRC, or CDMS.

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