

Work Comp Connection



June 2015 Newsletter

Division of Workers Compensation:
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

CORRECTION to Maximum Weekly Benefit July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Labor Market Information Services, has reported that the state's average weekly wage for calendar year 2014, in accordance with Section 44-704 of the Kansas Employment Security Law, was \$813.98. Pursuant to [K.S.A. 44-510c](#), the maximum workers compensation weekly benefit for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 will be \$610.00. This maximum will apply to those accidents occurring between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The minimum weekly benefit rate for fatalities for the same period, pursuant to [K.S.A. 44-510b](#), will be \$407.

Seminar Registration Opens in Mid-July

Registration for the **41st Annual Workers Compensation Seminar** on Sept. 29 and 30 at the Overland Park Convention Center will open on July 16 on our website at www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/seminar.aspx. The cost of two-day registration is \$160 and single day attendance is \$100. For security purposes KDOL will use KanPay to process attendee credit card payments, which will add a 2.5 percent service charge to the total amount of purchase. If you prefer to pay by check, complete the fillable registration form located on our website at the address listed above and mail the form along with your check to the address shown on the form. Hardcopy registrations will mail on July 31.



Continuing education credits have been pre-arranged for Kansas and Missouri attorneys, Certified Case Managers and nurses licensed in Kansas. If you are licensed or certified in an occupation that is not listed and need proof of attendance to file for credits on your own, contact WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov for information and instructions. There are 690 minutes of education available.

This year's legal session topics include:

- *The Work Comp Digitization Project (DigiComp)*, presented by Larry Karns, Director, Division of Workers Compensation, KDOL
- *Case Law Updates*, presented by Jan Fisher, McCullough, Wareheim and LaBunker, PA, and Dallas Rakestraw, McDonald, Tinker, Skaer, Quinn & Herrington, PA
- *Medicare and Medicaid*, presented by Stephanie Wilson, Wilson Elder Law, LLC
- *Calculation*, presented by Workers Compensation Appeals Board Member Gary Korte, KDOL
- *Legal Ethics I – Technology, Social Media and the Rules of Professional Responsibility*, presented by Kip Kubin, Bottaro, Kubin and Yocum, PC
- *Legal Ethics II – Recent Ethics Developments*, presented by Stan Hazlett, Disciplinary Administrators Office

Kansas attorneys can also attend *Workers Compensation Overview* in the day-one Management Track to receive continuing legal education credits. The session is presented by, Richard "Dick" Thomas, Langston & Associates.

Attendees can also look forward to networking with 93 exhibitors.

Be sure to keep your postal and e-mail address current.
Send updates to WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov.





What's happening with DigiComp?

The DigiComp project is actively working to identify what's needed to create a web-based system which will allow you to interact with the division electronically. When complete, the system will provide an electronic data interchange for claims and policy reporting, dispute workflows, document management, alternative dispute resolution processes and attorney electronic transactions and communications.

Below is a summary of what occurred in March and April on the DigiComp Project. Full reports can be read on the DigiComp website at: www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/DigiCompTimeline.aspx.

March Updates

Meetings were held in March to introduce performance metrics to division personnel. Performance metrics are used to assess the health of a program and to measure an organization's activities and performance against stakeholders' needs.

Stakeholders are central to the project; therefore outside stakeholder groups are being formed. Our first stakeholder group consists of attorneys who interact with our system and program. More detailed information about the group of stakeholders is described in the March report on the DigiComp website.

In addition to forming the [Attorneys Stakeholder](#) group, members from each division unit participated in meetings to generate a Current System Functionality Report. This involved reviewing the current Biltmore and other databases used by the division. Workcomp Strategies created 19 diagrams showing the current workflow within the database structure for individual units.

April Updates

The [DigiComp Steering Committee](#) hit the road during the month of April. Road shows were conducted for staff in the Lenexa and Wichita regional offices. Salina staff attended in Wichita. The Garden City office will be scheduled soon, and we are currently working with the Communications Team to bring the road show to Topeka WC staff as well. The Road Show provides information on items being considered for the new system and provides staff an opportunity to ask questions.

The committee and additional staff also visited three Kansas courts – Kansas Judicial Center (Supreme Court), and Johnson and Douglas County Courts – to investigate how these courts are currently operating in the digital world. These courts have initiated online filings and electronic signatures. A detailed description of their digital world can be founded on the DigiComp [webpage](#).

During the month of April we interviewed five vendors and demonstrations were provided to the core project team.

For detailed information about the Kansas Courts digital world and what was learned from the vendors' demonstrations, check out the [April](#) link on the DigiComp's Timeline webpage.

*Visit the
2015 Gold Sponsors
on the
Seminar's website*

**Seminar lodging —
online now!**

