

# Work Comp Connection

July 2018 Newsletter



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

## 44th Annual Seminar Registration Open

Registration for the [44th Annual Workers Compensation Seminar](#) scheduled on Sept. 25 and 26 at the Overland Park Convention Center will open in mid-July.

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) will continue to use KanPay to process registration payments for security purposes. The choices of payment will include, Automatic Check Handling (ACH), American Express, MasterCard or Visa. The cost of ACH service is charge is \$1.50. Credit card service charges will remain at 2.5 percent. We encourage you to register online and to use the ACH for overall savings.

Continuing education credits have been pre-arranged for Kansas and Missouri attorneys, Certified Case Managers, Kansas Advanced Practiced Registered Nurses (APRN), Kansas Registered Nurses (RN) and Kansas Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). Ethics will be featured for Certified Case Managers.

If you are licensed or certified in an occupation that is not pre-approved and need proof of attendance to file for credits on your own, you must sign in at the continuing education table before you attend sessions. Directions for documentation are provided at sign-in. There are 660 minutes of education available.

If you have questions about continuing education or need past documentation, send a request to [KDOL.WCSeminar@ks.gov](mailto:KDOL.WCSeminar@ks.gov).

## Maximum Weekly Benefit July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 is \$645

The Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, has reported that the state's average weekly wage for calendar year 2017, in accordance with Section 44-704 of the Kansas Employment Security Law, was \$859.76. Pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510c, the maximum workers compensation weekly benefit for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 will be \$645.00. This maximum will apply to those accidents occurring between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. The minimum weekly benefit rate for fatalities for the same period, pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510b, will be \$430.00.

## Registration Opens for Free OSCAR Account Enrollment and Training

Free OSCAR Account Enrollment and Training is scheduled at the Overland Park Convention Center on Sept. 26. The training will be presented from 8:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and is specifically intended for clerks, paralegals and legal assistants who will be using the OSCAR system regularly. Basic and advanced information and instruction will be provided with an opportunity to complete your company's enrollment prior to the system's launch in November.

Continuing education is prearranged, "*This (seminar) training meets the requirements of the NALA Certifying Board for Paralegals for (2.5) continuing legal education credit required to maintain the CP (Certified Paralegal) credential.*"

Registration to attend the free training will open on the [OSCAR Web page](#) in mid-July. Plan to bring your own laptop and remember OSCAR's preferred Web browser is Google Chrome. Register early, seating is limited.

Send questions to [KDOL.OSCAR@ks.gov](mailto:KDOL.OSCAR@ks.gov).

## OSCAR Update

**May 21 (Week 69)** - Track 11 went into the final week of a four-week development phase. Track 11 includes self-insurance pages, records request, assessments and payments and mobile judicial pages. In addition, ten user stories have been added to Track 11.

User stories are the functional outcomes of requirements, documents, work flow and needs which describe what a user does or needs to do his or her job.

Track 12 requirements review was completed during week 68 and the OSCAR Team ([consultants](#), [builders](#) and staff) met this week for the final review. The content of Track 12 includes role and permissions management, judicial mobile pages, additional self-insurance and records request functionality and case decision management.

WorkComp Strategies, LLC and CapTech will returned to Kansas June 4 through June 7 to perform User Acceptance Testing (UAT) on Track 11. UAT checks to assure programming is successfully working in order to validate a specific piece of functionality to meet the needs of the user.

Track 13 went into the second of a five-week requirements gathering phase. Track 13 includes external and internal roles and permissions (paid loss, self-insurance, records request, scanning and indexing, payment); external group member permissions (law firm, employer, insurer, claim administration, medical provider, state agency); mobile development (my form history, related cases, subpoena, assessments, case history, entry of appearance).

**May 28 (Week 70)** - CapTech and WorkComp Strategies worked on-site this week. The team had User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for Track 11. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) also tested paid loss, assessments, self-insurance, records requests and fraud and abuse functionality during Track 11 UAT.

Track 12 entered the first of a four-week phase of track approval.

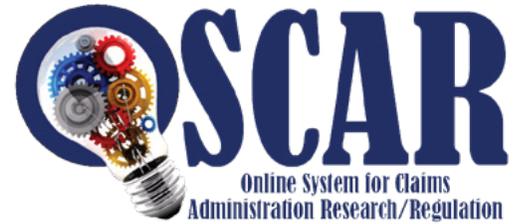
Track 13 entered the fourth of a five-week requirements gathering phase.

WorkComp Strategies and CapTech returned to Kansas on June 19 to work on Track 13 hand-off requirements.

**June 4 (Week 71)** - CapTech and WorkComp Strategies worked on-site this week. Track 12 went into the second of a four-week development phase in which programming code is being written for user stores. A mid-track review of Track 12 was completed on the external home page and navigation redesign, judges' decisions details and add/edit pages, employer seven-day letter compliance email, entry of appearance via mobile phone, call to action (CTA) administrative page and adding additional fields for self-insurance and employer pages.

Track 13 was in the final week of a five-week requirement gathering phase.

WorkComp Strategies and CapTech will return June 19 to work on Track 13 hand-off requirements.



## Kansas Launches Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) 3.1

Kansas is in the process of implementing the [International Association of Industrial Accidents Boards and Commissions \(IAIABC\) Claims Release 3.1](#), which will be adopted in November 2018. The Kansas IAIABC R3.1 release date coincides with the launch of the division's [Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation \(OSCAR\)](#).

Kansas EDI data will be integrated into OSCAR and some of the new requirements in claims 3.1 are needed to support OSCAR functionality and processes.

The following tables are available on the [EDI Web page](#):

Kansas R3.1 Event Tables  
Kansas R3.1 Element Requirements  
Kansas R3.1 Edit Matrix

All trading partners submitting in Kansas are required to submit an updated Trading partner document to our vendor Ebix for Release 3.1 by November 12, 2018, or before starting testing.

Trading Partner and EDI Vendor testing for Kansas Division of Workers Compensation FROI/SROI IAIABC Claims EDI Release 3.1 will begin July 16, 2018 and continue through November 15, 2018. **Please contact Ebix to set up testing by calling (866) 448-1776 or email [KS-EDICoordinator@Ebix.com](mailto:KS-EDICoordinator@Ebix.com).** EDI vendors that are already submitting in at least one R3.1 EDI state at the time of testing are only required to complete connectivity testing requirements.

- Testing – July 16, 2018 until November 15, 2018
- Updated Trading Partner Document is due by - November 12, 2018
- Go live date – November 2018

Continue to monitor the Work Comp Connection and the EDI Web page for additional information.

## Congratulations Sandy Branda and Barb Zeller!



Sandy Branda  
Salina

Sandy Branda and  
Administrative Law Judge Bruce Moore  
Salina

Legal Assistant, **Sandy Branda**, retired from the KDOL Workers Compensation Division after 31 years of service. A retirement party was held on Friday, June 15, to celebrate her years working for the state.

Sandy spent the past 23 years working in the Salina Judicial Unit as Legal Assistant to Administrative Law Judge, Bruce Moore.

We wish Sandy the very best in retirement!

Legal Assistant, **Barbara (Barb) Zeller**, retired from KDOL Workers Compensation Division after 37 years of service. A retirement party was held on Thursday, May 31, to celebrate her years working for the state.

Barb worked as Legal Assistant to Administrative Law Judge, Steven Roth.

We wish Barb the very best in retirement!



Barb Zeller  
Left: Deputy Secretary and Chief  
Attorney, Brad Burke and Administrative  
Law Judge Steven Roth - Topeka

Barb Zeller (right) receiving best  
wishes from Jodi Leftwich.

## Look Who's Working for You!



**Kala Kloster**  
Judicial Unit - Salina

**Kala Kloster** has taken Sandy Branda's position as Legal Assistant to Administrative Law Judge, Bruce Moore.

Kala attended the University of Nebraska in Kearney and later transferred to Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina to pursue a degree in business management.

Kloster worked for a local law firm specializing in workers compensation, family law and estate planning prior to joining the Salina Judicial Unit in May.

**Marissa Wagenaar** has taken Barb Zeller's position as Legal Assistant to Administrative Law Judge, Steven Roth.

Marissa graduated cum laude from Washburn University in 2011, with a major in History and a minor in Philosophy. She graduated from Washburn School of Law in 2014 and was sworn in as an attorney by the Kansas Supreme Court in April of 2015. Marissa worked at the Kansas Bureau of Investigations in the Offender Registration Unit for 2 1/2 years prior to coming to KDOL.



**Marissa Wagenaar**  
Judicial Unit - Topeka

Wagenaar began working in the Topeka Judicial Unit in May.

## Speaking for Lorax

Lorax is the name given to the back scanning project. The project was named after *The Lorax* which is a Dr. Seuss children's book that "speaks for the trees."



Business Technology Career Opportunities, Inc. (BTCO) is the vendor hired to scan the division's documents. Once scanned, the documents' digital images will be uploaded into the OSCAR system for internal and external customer use.

BTCO continues to pickup more records to be scanned.



## Jess Weber - In Remembrance

Our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and co-workers of Jess Weber, Legal Assistant to former Administrative Law Judge, Steve Howard in Lenexa.

Jesse (*Jess*) A. Weber, 69, Shawnee, Kansas, died Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at St. Luke's Hospital.

Jess was retired from the United States Air Force where he served as a Staff Sergeant.