

May 2020

The first online Annual Conference

Issue I

THE ROAD AHEAD

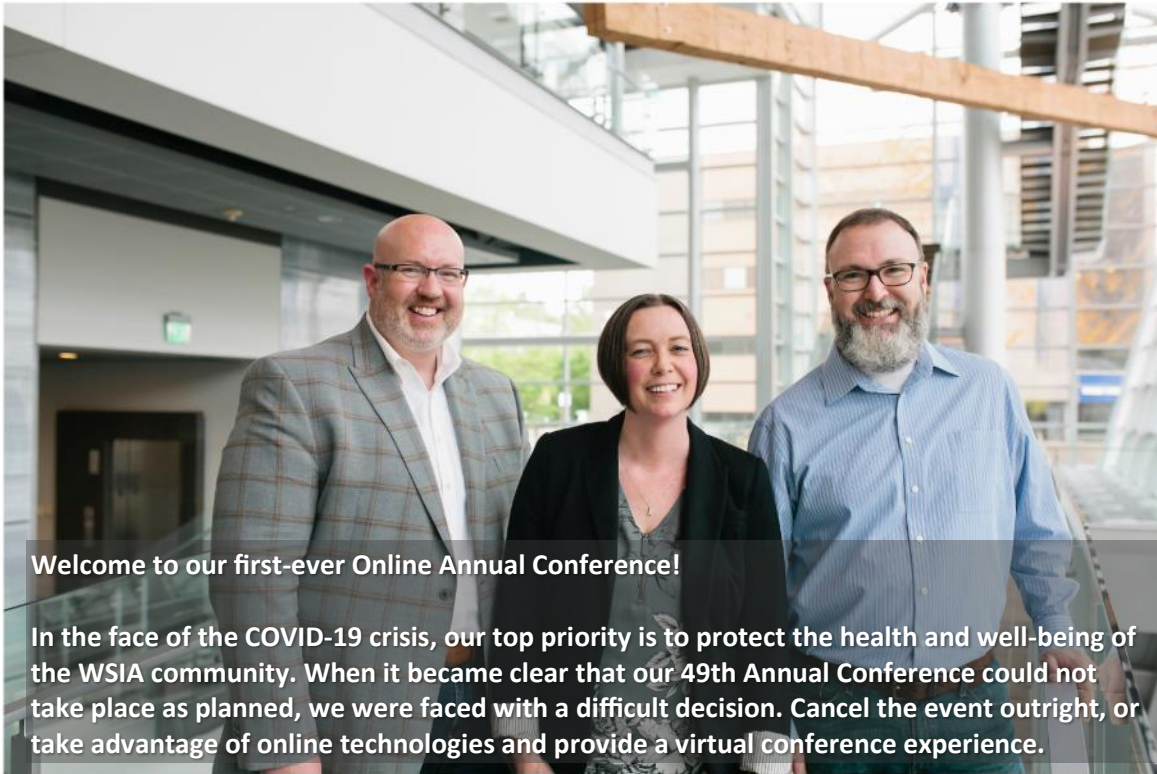
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voices

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Where do we go from
here?



A NOTE FROM STAFF



Welcome to our first-ever Online Annual Conference!

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, our top priority is to protect the health and well-being of the WSIA community. When it became clear that our 49th Annual Conference could not take place as planned, we were faced with a difficult decision. Cancel the event outright, or take advantage of online technologies and provide a virtual conference experience.

We're honored and excited to present this program to you, one full day of learning from diverse points of view coming in from all over the country and in our own backyard. With the COVID-19 outbreak top of mind, we anticipate much discussion around the transformative impact this disease and the public response to it has had and will have on our lives, economy, workplaces, and workers' compensation industry. We also look forward to some timely information about how risk management and claims management can be improved, pandemic or not, and some updated information about employee benefit systems and what hiring might look like in the future of work.

This program could not have happened without the fast and gracious willingness of all of our speakers to join us for this day. It's not every day an organization is able to pull together so many notable experts and rising stars into one event and while technology has made it possible, our speakers' engagement will make it outstanding.

We also can't thank enough our program sponsors, at all levels. Our Annual Conference event is one of the biggest financial supports of WSIA's yearlong operation on behalf of self-insured employers, and not holding it as planned will impact us severely. The support of our sponsors who were able to stick with us in the transformation to an online event has helped soften that impact, and we are grateful. We look forward to celebrating these companies all year as true champions of WSIA.

While these have been sobering weeks, we still have great optimism for what comes next. Next year's Annual Conference kicks off WSIA's 50th Anniversary year. We'll be back in the sunshine, together, before you know it.

Yours,

Kris, Kari, and Lloyd



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California

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TODAY'S

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.

Joel Sacks, L&I

9:00 a.m.

Robert Minor, NCSI

10:00 a.m.

Max Koonce, Sedgwick

11:00 a.m.

Bob Wilson,

WorkersCompensation.com

12:00 p.m.

Break

12:30 p.m.

Kimberly George,

**Sedgwick & Mark Walls,
Safety National**

1:30 p.m.

Mary Daly, Oliver Wyman

2:30 p.m.

Rose Gundersen,

Wash. Retail Association

3:30 p.m.

John Roach, WholeStory

4:30 p.m.

Close

**On
Demand**

Kris Tefft, WSIA &

Jim Nylander, L&I

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OUR SPEAKERS



JOEL SACKS | Department of Labor & Industries

Joel Sacks is in his eighth year as Director of the Department of Labor & Industries, overseeing the management and performance not only of the State Fund and self-insured workers' compensation systems and occupational safety and health regulations, but also numerous other labor and workplace programs. Director Sacks will provide an update on the latest Department initiatives, his priorities for the year, and will take your questions and concerns.



ROBERT A. "BUZ" MINOR | NCSI

Robert A. Minor, Esq. - Prior to his retirement on January 1, 2019, Buz Minor was a partner in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, and practiced in the area of labor and employment law. His practice included workers' compensation defense before the agencies and courts, assisting employers in obtaining self-insurance status and in resolving SI compliance issues, participation before the Ohio Supreme Court as amicus curiae, the defense of direct liability actions and employment intentional torts, and OSHA compliance and defense. Mr. Minor is the Executive Secretary of the Ohio Self-Insurers Association, serves on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Self-Insurers, and is a former President of the National Council.



MAX KOONCE | Sedgwick

Max Koonce is the Chief Claims Officer, for Sedgwick's Casualty Division. In this role, Mr. Koonce is responsible for product development and innovation, industry analysis and thought leadership, best practices and compliance standards, legislative and regulatory relationships, and continued involvement in client programs for Sedgwick's U.S. workers' compensation and liability lines of business. Prior to joining Sedgwick, Mr. Koonce was senior director of risk management for Walmart Stores, Inc., the nation's largest private sector employer. In this role, he managed the retailer's domestic property and casualty claims program. An attorney by trade, Mr. Koonce was previously an administrative law judge for the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission and an appellate court justice for the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

OUR SPEAKERS

BOB WILSON | WorkersCompensation.com

Bob Wilson is a founding partner, President & CEO of WorkersCompensation.com, based in Sarasota, Florida. Bob is a popular presenter on matters related to technology within the workers' compensation industry and bettering the workers' comp system through improved employee/employer relations and claims management techniques. He authors "From Bob's Cluttered Desk," a perennial top-ranked workers' compensation blog.



KIMBERLY GEORGE | Sedgwick **MARK WALLS | Safety National**

Kimberly George is a senior vice president who works in corporate development, mergers and acquisitions, and health care at Sedgwick. She explores and works to improve Sedgwick's understanding of how healthcare reform affects its business models and product and service offerings. Prior to joining Sedgwick, Ms. George worked as a consultant within the 24-hour health and integrated disability management arena. She also held a leadership position with a large national managed care organization's case management division. Her career has focused on creating health and productivity programs for employers, impacting quality and cost of risk. Ms. George has been a registered nurse for 20 years. Although she began her career as a neuro-trauma nurse, she quickly transitioned to the insurance and benefits arena. Her experience in the cost-containment field spans nearly 20 years. Ms. George's roles in the property and casualty field include product development, national telephonic case management and utilization review oversight, and integrated disability management, as well as her previous position with Sedgwick as a managed care practice lead.



Mark Walls is currently the vice president of communications and strategic analysis with Safety National, where his focus is on industry education and monitoring workers compensation issues nationwide. In this role, he oversees thought leadership activities and external communications, including developing content for white papers, social media, webinars, and speaking engagements. The majority of his 25-year career has been on the claims side, giving him perspective into the day-to-day challenges faced by employers, insurers, and third-party administrators. In between jobs with Safety National, Mr. Walls served as workers compensation market research leader of Marsh's Workers' Compensation Center of Excellence. Mr. Walls is also the founder of the Work Comp Analysis Group on LinkedIn. With over 25,000 members, it is the largest online discussion community dedicated exclusively to workers compensation issues.



OUR SPEAKERS



MARY DALY | Oliver Wyman

Mary Daly is a consulting actuary and Principal in the Los Angeles office of the Actuarial Practice of Oliver Wyman. She provides consulting services to corporations and public entities who retain some or all of their insurance risk through large deductibles, self-insurance or captive insurance companies. Her clients range from Fortune 500 companies to small municipalities. Specifically, she helps organizations estimate their retained risk and better comprehend the underlying trends in their claims data. She has significant experience with workers compensation, general liability, auto liability, employment practices liability, product liability, professional liability, and other Property and Casualty insurance coverages. Mary is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.



ROSE GUNDERSEN | Wash. Retail Association

Rose Gunderson is Vice President of Operations and Retail Services for the Washington Retail Association. She has over 25 years of experience in various industries which include healthcare, banking and insurance. When serving in the position of Small Business Liaison Manager at Labor & Industries, Rose helped to create innovative programs that served that community. She has worked with a wide-range of stakeholders inside and outside of government bringing to WR a diverse network of relationships. Rose's passion is in community outreach and in her spare time advocates for Washington trafficking prevention.



JOHN ROACH | WholeStory

Tri-Cities based John Roach is CEO and cofounder of WholeStory, a human resources application that connects employers and workers based on a holistic profile of workers, taking into account soft skills and leadership aptitudes. Additionally, John is Director of Cybersecurity at a large federal contractor in Richland, Washington and former VP of Information Technology at Permobil, a global manufacturer of medical devices. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and holds a master's degree from Gonzaga University.

We are pleased to announce Kristin D. Whitford has joined the firm as a Senior Associate Attorney as of March 2020.

Gibby M. Stratton
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Kristin D. Whitford

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Of Counsel
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Offered as Live Webcasts During COVID-19 Distancing Measures
Click course title or go to www.wsiassn.org/events to register*

Complex Claims Management

May 19-20th

LEP and PPD Administration

June 4th

Managing RTW & Vocational Recovery Outcomes

June 24th

Advanced Claims Management & Appeals

July 14-15



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– Gus Aivaliotis, Chief Underwriting Officer



Gus Aivaliotis with
members of Underwriting



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The Washington Workers' Compensation Professional (WWCP) is WSIA's premier professional designation. After completing a goal-oriented curriculum designed to transmit knowledge of both fundamental and advanced workers' compensation subjects, WWCP designees successfully demonstrate mastery by passing a final certification exam. The WWCP is the Only Department-approved curriculum meeting the requirements of WAC 296-15-360.

Go to www.wsiassn.org/wwcp for more info!

We honor our community's current WWCP holders:

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- Alexis Bafus
- Mary Jane Bankhead
- Karen Bert
- Debra Bicknell
- Alaena Blouin
- Ben Brawner
- Lloyd Brooks
- Holly Brown
- Rachel Brown
- Tonja Campbell
- Valerie Cheeley
- Toni Cooper
- Ruth Costello
- Sarah Crain
- Michelle Crevling
- Sharon Crouch
- Cynthia Crosby
- Nicole Daley
- Tricia Daniel
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- Kate Dawley
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- Carissa Hilstad
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THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

IN ADDITION to the incredible contributions made by our volunteer Executive Committee and Board of Directors, WSIA relies on the many hands of our members who contribute through various committees and other activities to represent the association and make our community strong. We are grateful to these volunteers listed here.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Open, with limited exceptions, only to attorney members of WSIA, the Legal Committee advises on pending legislation, amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs, and other issues that impact law and public policy in Washington.

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Aaron Bass
Christopher Bishop
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Our Legislative Committee sets WSIA’s legislative priorities, weighs in on legislative proposals, tracks legislation with us during session, and fields volunteers to participate in the legislative process.

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Andrew Davis
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CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE & Our Facilitators & Frequent Instructors

WSIA's Conference Planning Committee helps select topics of interest to the broader claims and safety community to feature at our seasonal and annual conferences, and helps select facilitators and presenters for our many conferences and trainings.

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The IIU Board of Regents is a separately comprised Board of Directors for WSIA's training mission, establishing our core curriculum, working with instructors, and overseeing the design and awarding of the WWCP designation.

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Cynthia Hudson

Ben Gagne
Jon Manthos

Linda Forsberg
Gennia Wellington-Cheatham


SAFETY COMMITTEE

WSIA's Safety Committee meets periodically to share information and presentations of interest to the safety professionals in WSIA member companies. Safety Committee members also help direct information on safety laws and regulations, best practices, and new services and products to the broader community.

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Scholarships are funded exclusively through donations from business and labor organizations, individuals, employers, and others.

WSIA and our members have been a major source of financial support for Kids' Chance. Each year at our Annual Conference we have raised nearly \$6,000 — the average scholarship award — through our popular 50/50 Raffle.

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