

# Opening Comments

Jeff Francis, Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Workers' Compensation



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WELCOME

# Please Stand

## Presentation of our Nation's Colors

Tennessee State Parks Honor Guard



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# Please Remain Standing

## Pledge of Allegiance

Del Grissom, Mediation Specialist,  
MOST, Knoxville

## Singing of our National Anthem

LaShawn Pender, Rhoberta Orsland &  
Kyle Jones

## Exit of the Honor Guard



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**As you sit down, take a minute to introduce yourself and tell your neighbor...**



# Welcoming Comments

## Troy Haley

Administrator,  
Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation



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# Welcoming Comments

# Deniece Thomas

Commissioner,  
Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development



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# Welcoming Comments



## Jeff Francis

Assistant Administrator,  
Bureau of Workers'  
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# Since We Last Gathered

Troy Haley has become the Administrator



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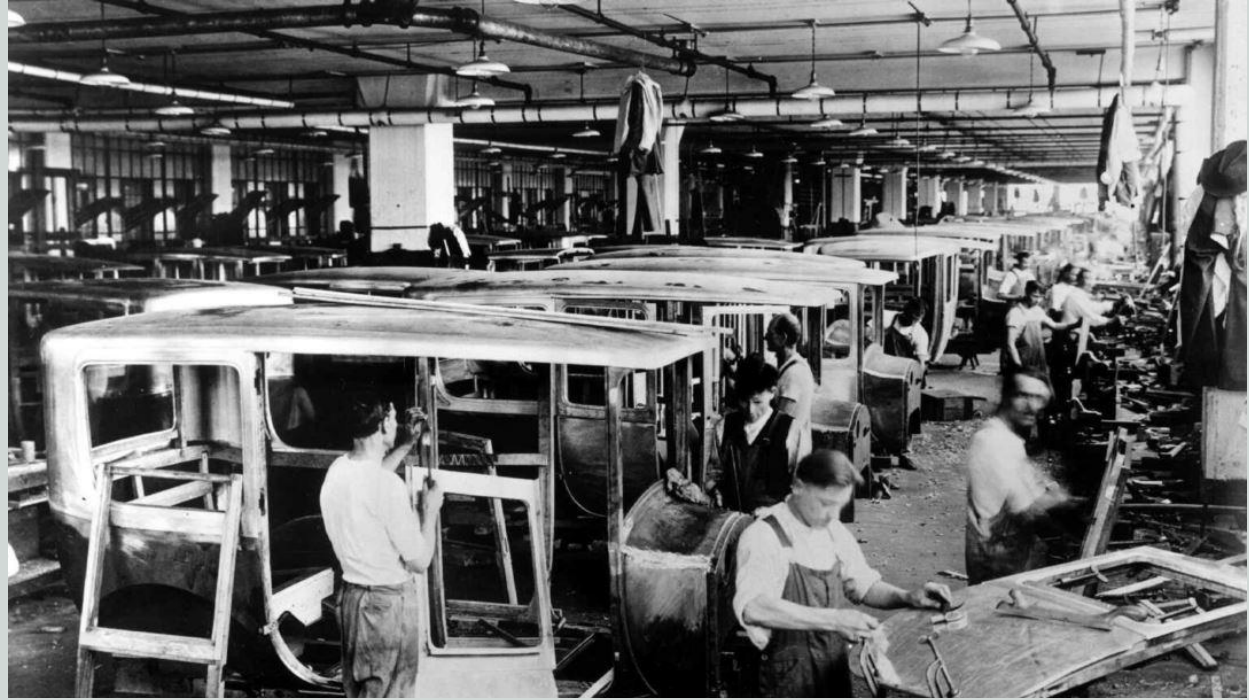
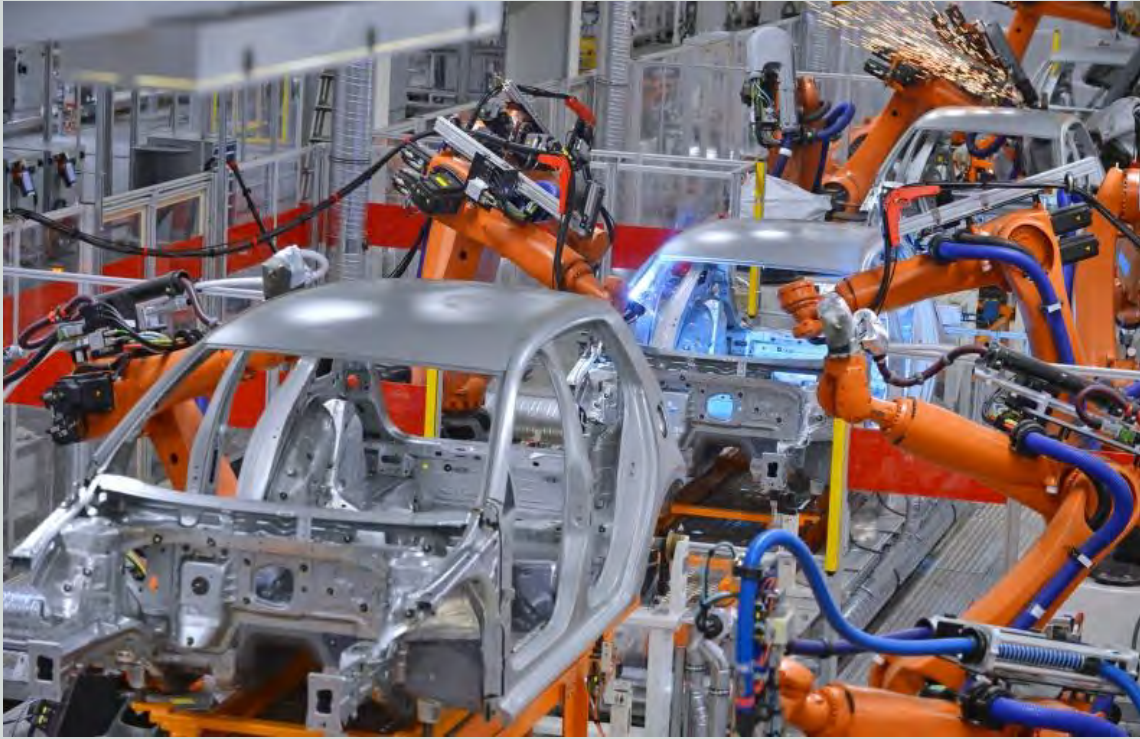
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# While jobs today are safer...



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... there are still too many people are being injured at work...

Calendar Year 2022:

86,677

injuries reported



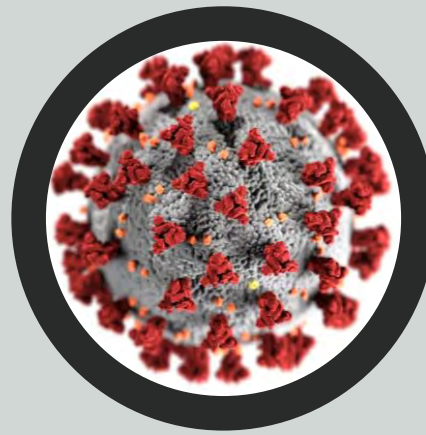
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# Our Workforce 2023



Vulnerable





# Bureau's New Mission Statement

Minimize the impact of work-related injuries through processes that are:

- Fair
- Efficient, and
- Accessible

to all participants in the Tennessee workers' compensation system.



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# To minimize the impact of work-related injuries

We must all be prepared...

...to collaborate,

...to support,

...to partner

...to facilitate recovery.



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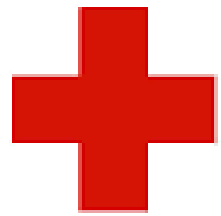
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# Learn How to Save a Life

## Earn your CPR/AED Certification

Training is being conducted during this conference



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

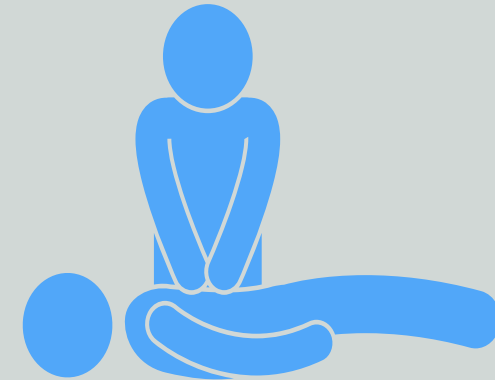
Tomorrow

8am

11am

(Lunch will still be available)

2pm



Sign-up at the Registration Desk

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# Our Keynote Speaker—Rick Byrd



- 14-time district or conference Coach of the Year
- Led Belmont to:
  - Eight NCAA Tournament appearances
  - 17 conference championships (10 regular season, 7 tournament)
- Ranks 12<sup>th</sup> all-time among NCAA Division I head coaches with 805 career victories
- Member of the:
  - Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
  - NAIA Hall of Fame
  - Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame
  - Atlantic Sun Hall of Fame
  - National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame
- While at Belmont, every player who completed their eligibility graduated



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# Oral Arguments before the WC Appeals Board



*Francisco Martin*

*v.*

*ACG Roofing, Inc.*

The issues on appeal concern whether the employer's workers' compensation insurance coverage had lapsed due to nonpayment of premiums at the time of the employee's alleged work injury.

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# Breakout Sessions

Thursday  
afternoon

3:15 – 4:30

Friday  
morning

8:00 – 9:15

9:30 – 10:45



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# Which Breakout Sessions can you attend?

You are free to attend any session you wish.

We have breakout sessions targeting:

- Attorneys
- Employers, Safety Professionals
- Adjusters
- Case Managers/Therapists/Medical Providers



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# Exhibitors' Hall

All breaks and breakfasts  
will be served in **Exhibitors' Hall**.

As will tonight's Welcome Reception



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# Exhibitors' Hall

Be sure to visit the Exhibitors—

- They have a lot of valuable information about their products and services;
- Their purchasing a booth helps us to keep your costs down; and,
- Some are giving away some really nice prizes.



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# Kids' Chance of Tennessee Fundraisers

- 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Provide college scholarships to children whose parents were involved in a fatal or catastrophic work-related accident.



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# Kids' Chance of Tennessee Fundraisers

Tip Jars/Scannable QR Codes

- Multiple variations
- Scattered throughout the conference area
- All funds go directly to Kids' Chance
- Donate any amount



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# Kids' Chance of Tennessee Fundraisers

Auction will be held in the Exhibitor's Hall

- Auction will end tomorrow at last break
- Continue to check as new items are being added frequently
- Live entertainment provided during tonight's reception by **Matthew Lester** in the Kids' Chance Booth



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# Kids' Chance of Tennessee Fundraisers

**\$200.00**  
**Cash**  
**Friday**

Proud  
Supporter  
of  
Kids'  Chance  
of Tennessee

Scan each   
to be entered  
into a **drawing**.



123

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# Lunch Tomorrow

Announcement of the Recipient of the **Sue Ann Head Award**

- In the Oakleigh Ballroom
- Seating is limited due to the size of the room
  - We want as many as possible to attend
  - When the space fills, everyone else can enjoy the exact same buffet in the Gateway Grille
    - Hotel restaurant off the main lobby



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# Sue Ann Head Award for Innovation and Excellence in TN Workers' Compensation



- Led this Agency for over 30 years
- The Award recognizes individuals who have made a significant and positive impact on our system
- Can be either a single extraordinary action or a record over a career



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2023

**SUE ANN HEAD AWARD**

*FOR EXCELLENCE IN WORKERS'  
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**FINALISTS**



# Katherine “Kitty” Boyte



- Partner at Peterson White, LLP
- Guest professor: Nashville School of Law
- Guest lecturer in Business Ethics at MTSU.
- Served on the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Bar Association
- Fellow of the Nashville Bar Association.
- Past-President:
  - Mid-South Workers' Compensation Association
  - Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association
- Served on the state's:
  - Workers' Comp Advisory Committee
  - Medical Fee Schedule Committee
  - Telehealth Study Group.

# David H. Dunaway



- Attorney at Rick A. Owens Law Offices & Kherani/Dunnaway Law Firm
- Nearly 50 years of experience helping injured employees
- He has now represented over 16,000 blue-collar and white-collar injured workers in state and federal courts
- He is also not afraid to litigate issues that will modify, change, repeal, or even extend existing
- He has been involved in multiple constitutional challenges using this innovative legal analysis.

# Chelsey Searcy



- Safety Program & WC Manager at WeGo Public Transit
- Started her WC career at Travelers:
  - Operations Specialist
  - Investigative Case Manager
  - Three years later, she began negotiating settlements
- At WeGo,
  - Implemented significant, stabilizing changes to a once unstable department
  - Trained other supervisors to be advocates rather than adversaries
  - Has been instrumental in improving the overall culture
    - Helping others see workers' compensation as a program to help their employees get back to work as quickly as possible

# Since We Last Gathered

Let's look at some of the  
accomplishments of the past year

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# Congratulations to the BWC Leadership Academy Graduating Class!



# After a brief hiatus, the CPP will be back soon

The two main goals:

- Increasing access to trained physicians
- Reducing the # of days that injured workers are out of work.

See **Jay Blaisdell** for more information.



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# The REWARD Program continues to Grow



Includes:

- REWARD Toolkit
- RTW Coordinator Training
- Employer Support Network
- Newsletter

See **Suzy Douglas** for more information



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# The Next Step Program Works!

- Assisted 35 injured workers to attend school in 2022
- Awarded 9 scholarships
- Helped 70 injured workers return to work

See **Marion White** for more info.



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# The Voluntary Adjuster Certification Program

- Four sessions in 2022
- Two session so far in 2023
  - First in-person training since 2020
  - Three more sessions scheduled
    - Another in-person scheduled for Pigeon Forge
- Over 600 adjusters have obtained their certification

See **Jeff Francis** for additional information



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# Continuing Education

## CCM

**12 General Hours**

**1.25 Ethics Hours**

## CLE

**A maximum of 11.75 hours**

**11.75 General Hours**

**4.25 Dual Hours**

## ADR

**11 Hours**

**6 General**

## SHRM

**12 Hours**

## CDMS

**12 General Hours**

**1.25 Ethics Hours**

## Adjusters/Producers

**11 Hours Property/Casual**

**Must attend all sessions,**

**No partial credits are allowed**

# Wi-Fi Instructions

For wireless, please log on to **SSID: Conference Center**

Connect to the “Conference Center” wireless network.

- When prompted, enter the username and password.
  - The username is: **iwcf**
  - The password is: **iwcf**
  - This information is case-sensitive.



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# Special Thanks to Organizing Committee

- ❖ Troy Haley
- ❖ Claudia Byers
- ❖ Brian Holmes
- ❖ Matthew Salyer
- ❖ Kyle Jones
- ❖ Lacy Conner
- ❖ Andrea Draper
- ❖ Martha-Lynn Lee
- ❖ Dr. Robert Snyder
- ❖ LaShawn Pender
- ❖ Jaime Weatherly
- ❖ Chief Judge Kenneth Switzer
- ❖ Suzy Douglas
- ❖ Jay Hicks
- ❖ Olivia Yearwood
- ❖ Cathy Dodd
- ❖ Matt Bodkins
- ❖ Dawn Schwartz
- ❖ Amanda Terry



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# Special Thanks to our Co-Sponsor

The International Workers' Compensation  
Foundation

Eric Oxfeld, Executive Director

David Earnest, Assistant



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# Let's Get This Thing Running!



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We will be right back with our next session.

# “Today in Tennessee”



Agenda



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