

Central States Association Spring Seminar

June 11-12, 2026, in Madison, WI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11	
7:45 am – 8:45 am	Continental Breakfast and Check-in
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions RODNEY GENNRICH, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVISION
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Act 33 Reunification Panel Discussion DEENA DRIESE, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVISION JIM O’MALLEY, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVISION CATHY LAKE, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVISION A question-and-answer panel discussion on Wisconsin Act 33; the reunification of adjudicatory functions from the Division of Hearing and Appeals back to the Department of Workforce Development.
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am -11:30 am	Self-Insurance Session ALLEN KASSEBAUM, NEBRASKA WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COURT
11:30 pm – 12:30 pm	Luncheon
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Roundtable Discussion MODERATOR: RODNEY GENNRICH, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVISION Participate in discussion with Central State colleagues on current issues and initiatives.
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	CSA “Hall of Fame” Ceremony RON RASCIA, ILLINOIS WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COMMISSION DAVID SPRICK, KANSAS DIVISION OF WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	<p>Nebraska Settlements Session</p> <p>LAURA PLICANIC, NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT</p> <p>In Nebraska, injured workers and employers/insurance carriers can settle a workers' compensation claim by filing a Lump Sum Settlement Application or, if certain requirements are met, by filing a Release of Liability. Laura will discuss the two types of settlements and common issues that arise with them.</p>
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>Claims Management Evolved: Collaboration and Technology Shaping the Future of Claims</p> <p>SCOTT MCFADDEN, OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION MELODY DIALS, OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION</p> <p>This session highlights the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Complex Claims Staffing Model and its impact on improving outcomes for high-severity claims through coordinated staffing and targeted interventions. Attendees will also be introduced to the AI-driven Claim Document Insight Tool, designed to streamline claim-document review and surface key information quickly for decision-makers. A real international case study, along with a brief look at how technology and structured assessments enhance claim-management efficiency, completes this forward-looking overview.</p>
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	<p>Networking Reception</p>

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am – 9:00 am	General Business Meeting
9:00 am – 9:45 am	<p>Kansas Judicial Performance Measures Update</p> <p>CLAIR KORTE, KANSAS DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION DAVID SPRICK, KANSAS DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION</p> <p>Sprick and Korte will update the conference on current efforts undertaken by the Division to measure judicial performance through statistics, metrics, and a recent ALJ</p>

	Survey. They will discuss how these performance measures are used in Kansas for judicial retention decisions by the statutorily created Kansas Workers' Compensation and Employment Security Boards Nominating Committee (WCESBNC).
9:45 am -10:00 am	Break
10:00 am – 10:45 am	<p>The CMS Factor: Implications for State Workers' Compensation Systems</p> <p>MARK LONG, AMETROS</p> <p>This presentation examines how CMS policy is influencing state workers' compensation systems and why stakeholder education is critical. Attendees will be equipped with the knowledge needed to navigate evolving CMS requirements and respond effectively. It will deliver clear, practical insights to support informed decision-making and stakeholder alignment.</p>
10:45 am -11:30 am	<p>Change Management</p> <p>DEENA DRIESE, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKER'S COMPENSATION DIVISION</p> <p>When leading change, people see only a small fraction of the overall picture. When in reality, change also encompasses essential pieces less visible, but not less critical. Change management best practice encompass both the visible and less easy to identify components of driving successful change management.</p>
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Wrap Up

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