



**Sunday-May 31, 2026**

**7:30 AM – OPEN | Palm Springs Tram and Nature Hike**

**A group will Uber to the Palm Springs Tram for a hike or sightseeing.**

**<https://pstramway.com>**

**Please email [denise.evans@staffmark.com](mailto:denise.evans@staffmark.com) to sign up**

**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Paint with Meaning Networking**

**A one-of-a-kind experience centered on creativity, self-expression, and color.**

**Choose an item from a curated selection to paint and take home.**

**Did we also mention mimosas?**

**Please email [denise.evans@staffmark.com](mailto:denise.evans@staffmark.com) for sign up and invoicing \$85 per person.**

**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM | State Association Meeting**

**4:30 PM – 6:30 PM | President's Reception**

*Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages*

*Dinner to follow on your own.*

**Hotel Information:** The spa is usually closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. However, if enough people want to book treatments on those days, the spa may open. If you would like to schedule a spa visit on either of those days, please email [denise.evans@staffmarkgroup.com](mailto:denise.evans@staffmarkgroup.com).

**We will once again have a Kids Chance Split-the-Pot! 🍀**

**Come ready to grab your tickets for a chance to win big — all while helping support kids on their journey to college 📖 ✨**

**Half the pot goes to one lucky winner, and the other half goes toward changing lives. Do not miss out!**



**Monday-June 1, 2026**

**Grand Ballroom**

**7:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Breakfast**

**7:30 AM – 7:45 AM | President's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**07:45 AM – 08:45 AM | Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Triaging Workers' Compensation Claims**

*Sandra McDaniel - Associate Director, Workers' Compensation - NC & GA Division, Advocate Health*

*Courtney Kilgore - Associate Director, Workers' Compensation - IL & WI Division, Advocate Health*

*Tom Page - Partner, Hedrick Gardner*

*Jeff Kadis - Partner, Hedrick Gardner*

**8:45 AM – 09:45 AM | Managing Claims Liabilities Effectively**

*Mark Bennage - Vice President, Risk Management, Simmons Foods*

*Ken Ferrell - Vice President, EPIC Brokers and Consultants*

**09:45 AM – 10:00 AM | Break**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Cost Cutting at What Cost? When Cost Cutting Affects Legal Outcomes**

*Amir Sharifi - Senior Manager Workplace Risk, Tesla*

*Jordan Hetherington - Workers' Compensation Manager, Tesla*

*Roy Park - Managing Partner, Park | Guenthart*

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Workers' Compensation as Enterprise Strategy: Connecting the Dots Across Risk**

*Shaun Jackson - Executive Director- Risk Management, Panda Restaurant Group Inc.*

*Justin Romine - Vice President, Marriott International*

*Mark Walls - Vice President, Safety National*

*Kimberly George - Vice President, Sedgwick*



**Monday-June 1, 2026**

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | From Compliance to Culture: A Holistic Blueprint to Workers' Compensation**

*Treesie Richins - Workers' Compensation Manager, Discount Tire  
Angie Jung - RN, BSN, CRRN, CCM, ISYS Solutions Inc.*

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Will Employer Negligence Erode Exclusive Remedy?**

*Roy Monge - Murrieta United School District  
Dawn Watkins - Retired Chief Risk Officer, Los Angeles Unified School District  
Eddy Canavan - Founder & Owner, Alta Claims & Insurance Services*

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Networking Event  
Margarita and Guacamole Making Contest  
Mariachi Band**

**(All registered attendees are Welcome to attend)**

If you would like to compete in the Margarita or Guacamole contest as a team or as an individual (we can also help place you on a team), please email [denise.evans@staffmarkgroup.com](mailto:denise.evans@staffmarkgroup.com). Spots are limited. Prizes will be awarded for the best-tasting Margarita and Guacamole. The contest will take place if enough sponsors participate.

**9:30 PM – 12:30 AM | Hospitality Suite**

**Dinner on your own tonight! ENJOY 😊**



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SELF-INSURERS

**Tuesday-June 2, 2026**

**Grand Ballroom**

**7:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Breakfast**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Workplace Violence: What Really Happens?**

*Lev Pobirsky - Senior Director, Ashley Furniture*

*Negar Martian - Partner, Matian Law*

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Medicare Compliance in 2026: How the Landscape is Evolving  
and What Employers Need to Know**

*Katy Harp - Workers' Compensation Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries*

*Pamela Brann - ABCP, BCMM, AR, Vice President Risk Management, Cast & Crew, LLC*

*Jennifer Shymanski - Vice President, Implementation and Strategy, IMPAXX*

**10:00 AM – 10:45 AM | Cutting Through the Clutter: Real-World Claims Differentiators for  
Self-Insurers**

*Yvonne Lavadores - Senior Manager, Workers Compensation, Disneyland Resort*

*Tyrone Spears - Chief of the Workers' Compensation Division, City of Los Angeles*

*Rachel Fikes - Chief Experience Officer & Director, WC Benchmarking Study, Rising Medical Solutions*

**10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Break**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Assemble Your Dream Team: Winning with an Unbundled  
Strategy**

*Steve Tinco - Casualty Claims Manager, United Road Services*

*Todd Beresford - Senior Counsel & Director of WC, The Cleveland Clinic*

*David Chmiel - Senior Vice President, HUB International*

*Wendy Lanphere - VP of National Accounts, CCMSI*

*Jim Anderson - Executive VP, Command Investigations*

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch**

**National Kids' Chance - NCSI Update & Annual Meeting**



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SELF-INSURERS

**Tuesday-June 2, 2026**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Breakout Session 1**

**Injured Worker Engagement During Recovery and Rehabilitation as a Key to Successful Treatment Outcomes**

*Teresa Schebel - Averitt*

*Larisa Featherstone - Chief Executive Officer, Johnston and Associates*

*Robert Townsend - Head of Research and Education, Bardavon*

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Breakout Session 2**

**Worlds Colliding: How the Liability Environment Is Impacting Workers' Compensation**

*Lauren McBride - Senior Director of Liability Claims, Publix Super Markets*

*Ron March-Attorney, Gannan & Shapiro*

*Max Koonce - Chief Claims Officer, Sedgwick*

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Light Duty Return to Work Exposure in WC Claims**

*Ellen Sapp - Workers' Compensation Manager, GardaWorld Security*

*Matt Gorski - Partner/Chair of WC, Amundsen Davis Law*

**3:00 PM – 3:45 PM | California Reform - What Changes Are Coming?**

*Pamela Brann - ABCP, BCMM, ARM - Vice President, Risk Management, Cast & Crew, LLC.*

*Tim Peterson - Attorney, Bober, Peterson & Koby, LLP.*

*Max Koonce - Chief Claims Officer, Sedgwick*

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Farewell Reception**

**6:30 PM | Dinner & Kids Chance Split-the-Pot Drawing! 🎲 ✨**

**Join us for a fun-filled evening of delicious food, great company. Do not miss the Kids Chance Split-the-Pot Drawing—where every ticket brings you closer to taking home a share of the pot while supporting an amazing cause.**

**Eat, laugh, and try your luck... it is a night you will not want to miss! 🍷**

**8:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**Music by: Jill's Cashbox Acoustic**

**10:00 PM – 12:30 AM | Hospitality**



**Wednesday-June 3, 2026**

**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Breakfast**

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | How to Manage Catastrophic & High-Risk Claims with Behavioral Health at the Center**

*Ard Allison - Workers' Compensation Director, McLane Company, Inc.*

*Timothy Roberts, ARM-Claims Executive*

*Natasha Charleston - LCPC, CRC, CISM, EMDR, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Carisk Partners*

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Break**

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Guardrails for Artificial Intelligence-What Employers Need to Know**

*William M. Zachry - Executive Director, CompSense*

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | State of the States: Self-Insurance Association Updates**

**Bill Rush - CO SI Association**

**Lloyd Hudson - OH SI Association**

**Kris Tefft - WA SI Association**

**Peter Strauss - MT SI Association**

**Alberto Rivera - AZ SI Association**

**Linda Savage - CA SI Association**

**THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SELF-INSURERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

**AND WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AGAIN NEXT YEAR MAY 21, 2027 – MAY 26, 2027, AT  
THE HISTORIC OMNI GROVE PARK INN IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA.**

