

# KWORDS *from* KWORCC

## KWORCC Annual Meeting

KWORCC will hold its 2019 Annual Meeting at the Kansas Association of Counties conference in Wichita, Kansas on November 12, 2019. Our meeting will start at 5:30 PM in Eagle A-D at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. It is important that each county member nominate a delegate and alternate to attend the meeting. In addition to reporting on the pool status, the county representatives will be asked to elect trustees to sit on the KWORCC Board from the members listed in the following districts:

**Southeast District:** Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Elk, Franklin, Greenwood, Linn and Miami;

**North Central District:** Chase, Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Geary, Jewell, Lincoln, Marion, McPherson, Morris, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic and Saline;

**South Central District:** Barber, Comanche, Cowley, Edwards, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, and Stafford;

**Northwest District:** Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Russell, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace.

Forms for delegate selection and Board of Trustee nominations have been mailed to the county members with the Notice of Annual Meeting. If you have questions regarding delegates or board nominations, contact KWORCC Staff Counsel, Dortha Bird: 1-877-357-1069; dorthabird@kworcc.com.

Visit KWORCC at booth #13 for Kansas Association of Counties 44th Annual Exhibition Vendor Showcase. Stop by to discuss your workers compensation pool and pick up some give-away items. We look forward to seeing you there.

## New County Joins KWORCC



Wabaunsee county joined the pool on September 24th.

## Remembering Trustee Michelle Garrett

Michelle Garrett was a career public servant in the Morris County Clerk's office with four years as deputy, and nearly 40 years as county clerk. Michelle was elected by our membership to the KWORCC Board of Trustees in November of 2002. She passed away on September 6, 2019. Ms. Garrett was consistent in her resolve to provide counties the best service KWORCC can offer.



We will miss her intelligence, reason and pleasant, positive approach as a KWORCC Trustee. She was proud to be a part of a group that is for and about Kansas counties. Michelle enjoyed her grandchildren, Kaylani and Layla, college basketball and Wysocki jigsaw puzzles. KWORCC extends condolences to Ms. Garrett's family and friends.

## Thank you Carl Eyman!

### Cha-Cha-Cha-Cha Changes

The only constant in life is change. In 1993, I began my employment with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) to provide services for its insurance pools, KWORCC and KCAMP. This was a huge change from working in the private industry. Another change was when the pools separated from KAC and later separated from each other, and I ended up working exclusively for KWORCC in 1998. More changes as KWORCC increased our safety training and loss control services. In addition, KWORCC has grown to 88 members -- more than doubled since I started marketing in earnest. That's 78 counties - three of which joined this year -- and 12 county instrumentalities.

At this juncture, I'm making another change to enjoying a life of retirement. As I go into this change, I'm leaving KWORCC in a very strong financial position and in the hands of some excellent staff to continue services for your workers compensation program. Thank you, everyone, for some wonderful years - my relationships with folk all over our great state who are dedicated to services to Kansas citizens have enriched my life immensely! My best wishes for all of you and to the continuing success of KWORCC.



*Carl*

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## CLAIMS REPORTING

To submit a claim online, go to [www.tristarrisk.com](http://www.tristarrisk.com) and select "report a claim". To call in a claim: 1-855-495-1554. Questions on claims should be directed to Amanda Chamberland: 1-844-702-2353x4713 [Amanda.Chamberland@tristargroup.net](mailto:Amanda.Chamberland@tristargroup.net)

## TRUSTEES

**Sandy Barton, President**  
Stanton County Clerk  
P.O. Box 190  
Johnson, Kansas 67855  
(620) 492-2140

**Bonnie "Rob" Roberts,  
Vice-President**  
Miami County Commissioner  
7 Sunset Lane  
Paola, KS 66071  
(913) 294-5844

**Linda Buttron, Secretary**  
Jefferson County Clerk  
300 Jefferson, PO Box 321  
Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066  
(785) 403-0483

**Gary Caspers**  
Cloud County Commissioner  
811 Washington  
Concordia, Kansas 66901  
(785) 243-8135

**Stan McEvoy**  
Decatur County Commissioner  
PO Box 28  
Oberlin, Kansas 67749  
(785) 475-8101

**Wayne Wilt**  
Cowley County Commissioner  
311 E 9th  
Winfield, Kansas 67156  
(620) 221-3706

# Deer Collisions

By **Jes Pfannenstiel, Loss Prevention Specialist**

It's about that time of year for the deer to begin increasing their activity. Approximately 80% of deer collisions with county vehicles involve sheriff's cruisers and ambulances as they travel at higher speeds and at night. Most of these accidents are unavoidable, and swerving to miss them can be as dangerous. Not only is there a risk of bodily injury, there are other negative factors that are associated with this occurrence.

To lessen the severity of deer collisions, I recommend that all sheriff's cruisers and ambulances have push bumper/grill guards installed. They greatly reduce a possible bodily injury, reduce repair time, repair costs, and loss of use of the vehicle. If the push bumper/grill guard is damaged, the insurance company will pay to replace it.

Although no deer collisions are the same, I would estimate that the repair costs are approximately 40% to 50% less when hit with a vehicle with a push bumper/grill guard installed. Many times, no damage takes place to the vehicle at all.

I know this recommendation might not make your local body shops happy, however I feel this recommendation will save time, money, and inconvenience.

## Drive Safely as it Gets Darker

Shorter days, fatigue, compromised night vision, rush hour and impaired drivers are some of the risks we face when driving at night. These risks become especially pronounced moving into the weekend, with fatal crashes peaking on Saturday nights, according to NSC analysis of NHTSA data.

When Daylight Saving Time ends – for 2019, that's 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 – many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark. Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision can be compromised in the dark, and the glare of headlights from an oncoming vehicle can temporarily blind a driver.

Even with high-beam headlights on, visibility is limited to about 500 feet (250 feet for normal headlights) creating less time to react to something in the road, especially when driving at higher speeds.

### What should you do to combat darkness?

- Aim your headlights correctly, and make sure they're clean
- Dim your dashboard
- Look away from oncoming lights
- If you wear glasses, make sure they're anti-reflective
- Clean the windshield to eliminate streaks
- Slow down to compensate for limited visibility and reduced stopping time

Night vision is the ability to see well in low-light conditions. As we age, we have greater difficulty seeing at night. A 50-year-old driver may need twice as much light to see as well as a 30-year-old. At age 60 and older, driving can become even more difficult, according to the American Optometric Association. Some older drivers also may have compromised vision due to cataracts and degenerative eye diseases.

### The ADA recommends older drivers:

- Have annual vision exams
- Reduce speed
- Take a driving course; even experienced drivers can benefit from a refresher course, and some of the rules have probably changed
- Minimize distractions, like talking with passengers or listening to the radio
- Check with your doctor about side effects of prescription drugs
- Limit driving to daytime hours if necessary

A National Sleep Foundation poll says 60% of adults have driven while they were tired, and another 37%, or 103 million people, have fallen asleep at the wheel. Of those, 13% say they fall asleep while driving at least once a month, and 4% say they have caused a crash by falling asleep while driving. The reasons are many – shift work, lack of quality sleep, long work hours, sleep disorders – and it doesn't only happen on lengthy trips.

These staggering numbers are backed up by a report by NHTSA that 100,000 police-reported crashes are a result of driver fatigue. Most crashes or near-misses happen at the times you would expect drivers to be tired: 4 to 6 a.m., midnight to 2 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m., according to NSF.

Drowsy driving puts everyone on the road at risk. Losing two hours of sleep has the same effect on driving as having three beers, and tired drivers are three times more likely to be in a car crash if they are fatigued.

### The National Sleep Foundation offers this advice:

- Get seven or more hours of sleep a night
- Don't drive if you've been awake for 16 hours or more
- Stop every two hours to rest
- Pull over and take a nap if you're drowsy
- Travel during times you are normally awake

# KWORCC Learning Center

Safety awareness and safety training are a large part of keeping your employees safe. Regular safety meetings (KWORCC recommends once a month) can be used to show videos from the KWORCC Safety Video Library as well as to discuss housekeeping and timely safety topics. Additionally, individual employees can take online courses through Gov-U (contact John D'Angelo at [John.D'Angelo@praetoriandigital.com](mailto:John.D'Angelo@praetoriandigital.com) or 866.845.8887 to set up an account if you don't have one), and the KWORCC Loss Prevention Staff is available for on site, in person group training.

## Local GovU

There are hundreds of courses available on Local GovU. Here is more information on some of them.

**Basic First Aid:** In the event of an emergency, would you know what to do to help yourself or someone else? Could you render potentially lifesaving assistance until first responders arrived? You never know when or where a medical emergency will occur. If a co-worker were to be injured, you could be their best chance of survival. Understanding basic first aid will help you to respond confidently and effectively to various emergencies that may occur whether at home, in the workplace, or anywhere you may be. (2 hours)

**Chainsaw Safety:** Like all power tools, a chainsaw can save both time and labor if used properly. But, it

can be quite dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced operator. Operators who take precautions when using a chainsaw help create a safe and secure environment for themselves and their co-workers. Taking these precautions can prevent the long-term negative effects that can result from accidents. (1 hour)

**Power Tool Safety:** Power tools are a crucial part of your job every day. While their everyday use may make them seem familiar and safe, it is vital to remember these tools can live up to their name. You can move from safe to unsafe in under one second. This course will highlight how important power tool safety is, the differences in power tool categories and their risks, as well as how to safely operate power tools. (1 hour)

## Selected Video Learning

Most of the safety videos are available only on VHS. However, most videos with a number of G-106 and higher are available on DVD. If you have a particular topic you would like to see us carry on DVD, please email Nicole at [nicole@kworcc.com](mailto:nicole@kworcc.com).

A complete list of available videos can be found on the KWORCC website at <http://kworcc.com/LossPrevention.htm>.

### *Suggested video library selections:*

- G-119 Flagger Safety training
- G-127 Housekeeping and accident prevention
- G-137 Better Back, Better Health, Better Life



## In-Person Training Available

**As a KWORCC member there are many training options available for your employees, and one of those options is in-person training. At no cost to the county, except forklift books, we will conduct this training at your convenience.**

**So far in 2019, we have provided 19 Defensive Driving classes, 11 Forklift classes, and 7 Flagging in Work Zone classes to our members, in addition to a myriad of other training topics. These three courses mention are all certification courses; Defensive Driving and Flagging are valid for two years, and Forklift is valid for three years.**

**While Defensive Driving courses are not a requirement, KWORCC highly suggests that any county employee operating a vehicle during the**

**By Brandon Mann, Loss Prevention Manager course and scope of their duties attend a defensive driving class every two years. The Flagging and Forklift certifications, however, are required by Federal and State law; anyone operating a forklift or working as a flagger in a construction zone are required to have formal training for these tasks.**

**Jes Pfannenstiel can provide these training options in the following KWORCC counties: Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Linn, Lyon, Marion, and Osage. Brandon Mann will provide training for all other KWORCC counties. Please contact either of us to schedule this training for your employees if you have not had this training during the 2- or 3-year interval mentioned above.**

## *Focus on Claims:*

### *Horseplay or Fighting in the Workplace*

By Amanda Chamberland, TRISTAR Claims

**When it comes to work injuries, we tend to think of an unexpected event with unforeseen consequences. On the other hand, if we choose to engage in horse play or physically assault someone, we are aware that injury is a probable outcome. It makes sense, therefore, that the Kansas Workers' Compensation Act provides no coverage when an injury is the result of the employee engaging in horseplay or fighting. The key proviso is "voluntary". Thus, if the injured worker is victim to the shenanigans of a co-worker, it may be a covered injury.**

**Perhaps employees will use horseplay as a means to alleviate boredom or create a sense of "camaraderie" through games and jokes, choosing to ignore the risk of serious effects of their actions. Unfortunately, serious injuries have resulted from horseplay and the employer is held responsible for another employee's misconduct.**

**As an employer, if horseplay or fighting is identified in the workplace, it is important to take immediate steps to discourage and prohibit such conduct. Moreover, if you suspect that an injury may have been the result of horseplay or fighting (including when the fight is work-related), notify your claims adjuster for a thorough investigation and compensation determination.**

## 2019 *Board Meeting Dates*

- X January 24th
- X February 28th
- X March 28th
- X April 25th
- X May 30th
- X June 27th
- X July 25th
- X August 29th
- X September 26th
- October 24th
- November 12th – Annual Meeting
- December 19th