

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCEL CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 11:00 AM**

**LOCATION:
TELECONFERENCE**

Link: <https://alliantinsurance.zoom.us/j/96439577386?pwd=WWiHUHb8ZsKm92SIUo9HG6PvKm1RL4.1>

Meeting ID: 964 3957 7386

Passcode: 295369

Dial: (669) 900-6833

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jena Covey, City of Bakersfield
Matthew Braley, City of Modesto
Samhitha Cutshaw, City of Mountain View
Kelly-Louise Poggetti, City of Palo Alto
Oles Gordeev, City of Santa Monica

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ross Brandon, City of Santa Cruz

GUESTS AND CONSULTANTS:

Donna Starr, City of Anaheim Alternate
Ben Oram, George Hills Company
Samantha Morgan, George Hills Company
Conor Boughey, Alliant Insurance Services
Lorissa Huey, Alliant Insurance Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

Jena Covey called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

B1. Approval of Minutes for the May 19th, 2026 Claims Committee Meeting

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar.

MOTION: Jena Covey

SECOND: Oles Gordeev

MOTION CARRIED

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Samhitha Cutshaw	Kelly-Louise Poggetti	Ross Brandon	Oles Gordeev
Aye	X	X	X	X		X
Nay						
Abstain						

C. REPORTS

C1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

C1a. Election of Claims Committee Chair

Lorissa Huey reported that the Claims Committee annually elects a Committee Chair.

A motion was made to elect Samhitha Cutshaw as the Claims Committee Chair.

MOTION: Oles Gordeev

SECOND: Kelly-Louise Poggetti

MOTION CARRIED

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Samhitha Cutshaw	Kelly-Louise Poggetti	Ross Brandon	Oles Gordeev
Aye	X	X		X		X
Nay						
Abstain			X			

C1b. Litigation Update

Every quarter, Ben Oram provides the Claims Committee a litigation update. The litigation update was posted on the ACCEL Website in the Members' Only Section.

Members asked questions, which were addressed.

C1c. Member Attorney Rates

Lorissa Huey reported that ACCEL's Claims Handling Policy and Procedure requires Members to notify the Claims Committee (CC) when their attorney rates are in excess of \$400 per hour.

The City of Bakersfield submitted its 2026 letter for the fifth year in a row using the same law firm, Marderosian & Cohen, as requested annually by ACCEL.

The City of Burbank submitted a letter regarding Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni for the third year. The City also submitted a letter for a new firm, Best Best & Krieger, LLP.

A motion was made to direct the Program Administrators to send a letter to the City of Burbank stating that the Committee has reviewed the attorney rates for reasonableness, receives and files the letter, and requests the City provide the letter annually. The ACCEL Letter to the City will be signed by the Program Administrator and the Claims Committee Chair, Samhitha Cutshaw carbon copied.

These letters will be considered received and filed.

MOTION: Kelly-Louise Poggetti **SECOND:** Samhitha Cutshaw **MOTION CARRIED**

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Samhitha Cutshaw	Kelly-Louise Poggetti	Ross Brandon	Oles Gordeev
Aye		X	X	X		X
Nay						
Abstain	X					

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Lorissa Huey adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.