

**Does your elected official—and just as importantly, their staff—actually know what you do? Do they understand the real-world issues your clients face every day in your community?**

**Spoiler alert: they don't. Not because they don't care, but because they aren't mind readers.**

**That's where YOU come in. Lawmakers rely on informed sources, like yourself, to connect the dots between policy language and lived reality. When regulations shift, networks change, or costs rise, we're the ones seeing the impact first. If we don't explain it, someone else will—and they may not get it right.**

**Showing up matters. Having the conversation matters. Advocacy is simply education, and NABIP members are uniquely positioned to do it well.**

**That's how we protect our clients, strengthen our profession, and keep policy grounded in reality—one informed conversation at a time.**

**Join us for NABIP's 36th Annual Capitol Conference 2026 — February 22–24 in Washington, D.C. This premier advocacy event brings together more than 800 health insurance and benefits professionals for three powerful days of preparation, education, and direct engagement with lawmakers and policymakers.**

**From in-depth training and timely policy briefings to a full day of advocacy on Capitol Hill, Capitol Conference 2026 empowers members to make their voices heard and drive meaningful change in healthcare policy.**

**Help shape the future of healthcare that expands access, strengthens choice, and improves affordability while strengthening relationships with legislators and connecting with industry leaders. Register today at [www.NABIP.org](http://www.NABIP.org)**

**See you in DC!**

**Sara Walker-Hite, President**

**TJ Bullock, President-Elect**

**Missie Shepherd, Vice-President**

**Mark your calendar and Snag your Ticket!** Spring 2026 is shaping up to be a standout season for benefits professionals—and this one is happening right in our own backyard.

 **April 28–30, 2026 Hyatt Regency McCormick Place – Chicago, IL**

BenefitsPRO Broker Expo 2026 features an expanded keynote lineup and thought-provoking track sessions, making it the only editorially driven conference program specifically designed to address the real-world needs of brokers, agents, and advisors. This is practical education, sharp insight, and peer-level conversation—no fluff, no filler.

The Broker Expo is the preferred destination for hundreds of the industry’s most influential benefits professionals to build meaningful relationships and gain practical, usable education to position their businesses for sustainable growth.

If your 2026 goals include smarter strategy, stronger peer connections, and a clearer view of where the benefits industry is headed, this conference belongs on your calendar. Register early

 **Tickets –**

All NABIP members are eligible for a 15% discount when using code **NABIP15** during your online registration check out.

Register online now at

<https://www.event.benefitspro.com/bprobrokerexpo>

Complimentary tickets are available exclusively for active NABIP Illinois Suburban Chicago members whom are first time attendees to this expo. This offer is not transferable and is limited to eligible members of our local chapter.



**BenefitsPRO.  
BROKER EXPO**

 April 28 - 30, 2026  Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago

**Cultivate Relationships and  
Obtain Practical Benefits  
Industry Knowledge**

**Chicago Chapter NABIP members, please email Sara Walker-Hite or TJ Bullock at [Info@NABIPIllinois.org](mailto:Info@NABIPIllinois.org) for your free ticket link to register**

Certified   
**NABIP** | Account Based Health Plans

**BenefitsPRO Broker Expo on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM cst**  
**NABIP Certification Program – Account-Based Health Plans**  
**Instructor: Lisa Collins, Principal Advisor at Choice Plus Benefits Advisor**

### **Course Overview**

Rising healthcare costs continue to outpace wage growth, creating affordability challenges for employers and employees. This workshop provides benefits professionals with a practical and strategic understanding of account-based health plans and their role in addressing cost containment, consumer engagement, and regulatory compliance.

Participants will gain insight into the limitations of traditional managed care models and explore how account-based strategies respond to market pressures such as increased deductibles, prescription drug utilization, demographic shifts, and government intervention.

### **Why Take This Account-Based Health Plans Course?**

- Compare HRAs, HSAs, and FSAs
- Review ICHRA and EBHRA models
- Evaluate adoption trends and regulatory guidance
- Understand compliance, eligibility, and contribution requirements
- Apply sales and implementation frameworks

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Participants will gain insight into the limitations of traditional managed care models and explore how account-based strategies respond to market pressures such as increased deductibles, prescription drug utilization, demographic shifts, and government intervention.

Tuition covers continuing education credits filed in each state, a final exam, and certificate of completion.

**NABIP members \$ 246.40**

**Non-Members \$ 324.50**

**\*BenefitsPRO Expo ticket + registration in course is required.**



# The Annual Linda Erlenbach Lifetime Achievement Award -

**Nomination deadline: April 30th.**

Linda Erlenbach, RHU, is a lifelong leader whose dedication to the agent community has left a lasting mark on our industry. Throughout her career, Linda balanced raising three children as a single mother, building her own agency, caring for her family, and managing health challenges—all while giving tirelessly to NABIP, her clients, and her community.

A passionate Region 3 leader, Linda played a pivotal role in membership and chapter development, ultimately helping create NABIP's Chapter Development Committee. She mentored countless leaders, helped establish and revitalize chapters, and served in numerous leadership roles, including two terms as President of the Ohio Association of Health Underwriters and as Region 3 Regional Vice President. In 2010, she was elected NABIP Secretary. Despite later stepping down due to a serious health diagnosis, Linda continued to serve at the state and regional levels.

In honor of her extraordinary service, NABIP Region III annually presents its highest honor—the Linda Erlenbach Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing Region III's Person of the Year. The award honors individuals who have gone above and beyond in service to the profession without expectation of personal gain.

Nominations should include a completed online Nomination Form and a supporting statement outlining the candidate's leadership roles, industry involvement, and specific accomplishments. Please scan the QR code below to complete the nomination form here or visit <https://forms.gle/XP2ifpNGdrq6NTT77>



## NABIP | REGION 3

### Linda Erlenbach Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Linda Erlenbach  
Lou Reginelli  
Darlene Kaszmarek  
Bill Robinson

Michael Deagle  
Dwight Hall  
Michael Embry  
Suzy Alberts

Patricia Griffey

**SCAN ME**



Please direct questions to Heather John, Region 3 Awards Chair at [Info@NABIPillinois.org](mailto:Info@NABIPillinois.org)

The award is presented at the discretion of the Region 3 Vice President at a NABIP event.



## **Your Chapter Need You (Yes—you).**

Like all chapters in our association, NABIP Illinois runs on smart, passionate volunteers who care about protecting brokers, clients, and the future of our profession. Right now, we're building momentum—and we need extra hands to keep it rolling.

Whether you love advocacy, events, communications, education, or behind-the-scenes problem-solving, there's a place for you. You don't need decades of experience or endless free time—just a willingness to jump in and help move the needle.

Volunteering is how relationships are built, voices are heard, and real change happens. It's also how leaders are made.

Step up. Pitch in. Help shape what's next for NABIP Illinois. We need you.

Call for Volunteers for the July 2026 to June 2027 Term:

### **NABIP Illinois State Chapter:**

- Membership Chair - Retention
- Membership Chair - Growth
- Professional Development Committee - Continuing Education Administrator
- Social Media Coordinator - Facebook and LinkedIn
- Newsletter Editor utilizing CANVA
- Additional opportunities coming soon!

Please reach out to NABIP Illinois' President Sara Walker-Hite or President-Elect TJ Bullock at [info@nabipillinois.org](mailto:info@nabipillinois.org) if you would like to learn more. The board will provide training to those appointed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Membership** - Kicking off a campaign focused on lapsed members in the Chicagoland area. BenefitsPRO is offering a free April 2026 Expo ticket to all active NABIP Chicago chapter members and 15% savings to NABIP members from other chapters with promo code **NABIP15**. Will you join us at the Expo? We're looking for a few volunteers to help NABIP staff at our booth with recruitment questions from attendees. Thank you, TJ and Sara

**Marketing & Communications** - A new calendar at a glance has been added to our newsletter. Website calendars are being consistently updated as well as new information becomes available. Please keep us posted on your updates. We are always looking to spotlight our members and help celebrate successes. Thank you, Sara

**Nominations** - A new policy and procedure for nominations and elections has been provided to the board for review. More to come. Lou

**Treasurer** - No surprises on any expenses, but dues revenue is down. Looking forward, the dues revenue report for the following month shows a discrepancy, so I will audit this to see why this particular month is so low. Thank you! Laura

**Continuing Education Credits** - All CE credits have been filed and are up to date except for those whom provided incorrect NPNs or are showing a lapse in their license. Please contact Tammy Riddle with questions.

**PAC** - Are you a giving member of the NABIP PAC? It's a great time to start!

<https://nabippac.nabip.org/contribute-now> The mission of NABIP PAC is to raise funds from NABIP members for the purpose of supporting the political campaigns of candidates who believe in private sector solutions for the health and financial security of all Americans. Please contact Jerry Jackson or Missie Shepherd with questions.

**Calendar at a glance | Visit [www.NABIPIllinois.org](http://www.NABIPIllinois.org) for more information**

Monday, February 9, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois State Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, February 12, 2026 9am-Noon Annual NABIP Heart of Illinois Ethics Class with Tom Ripperda | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, February 19, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse | Webinar Series

February 22-24<sup>th</sup> NABIP Annual Capitol Conference | Washington, DC

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Annual NABIP Heart of Illinois Expo | East Peoria, IL

Monday, March 9, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois State Board Meeting | Virtual

Thursday, March 19, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse | Webinar Series

Monday, April 13, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois State Board Meeting | Virtual

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 NABIP, BIG I, NAIFA - Annual Illinois Insurance Industry Legislative Day 2-5pm seminar; 5:30-7:30 reception | Springfield, Illinois

Thursday, April 16, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

April 28-30, 2026 BenefitsPRO Broker Expo Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

*+ Optional NABIP Account Based Health Plans Certification Course 9am-Noon April 28<sup>th</sup>.*

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> - NABIP Suburban Chicago Expo

Monday, May 11, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois Board Meeting and Annual Strategic Planning - Part 1

Thursday, May 21, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

Monday, June 8, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois Board Meeting and Annual Strategic Planning-Part 2

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, June 18, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

June 27-30<sup>th</sup> Annual NABIP Convention | Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, NJ

**Calendar at a glance | Visit [www.NABIPIllinois.org](http://www.NABIPIllinois.org) for more information**

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, July 16, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

Thursday, August TBD, 2026 NABIP Illinois Annual State Symposium (in lieu of NABIP IL Pulse)

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, September 17, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, October 15, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 8:15-10:am NABIP Suburban Chicago Chapter Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

Thursday, November 19, 2026 8-9am NABIP Annual Legislative Update Webinar (in lieu of our normal NABIP Pulse webinar)

Thursday, December 17, 2026 8-9am NABIP Illinois Pulse Webinar Series



**Company Name :**

**Mailing Address :**

**Contact Name :**

**Contact Email :**

**Contact Phone :**

**Virtual Event Sponsorship:**

■ \$100 each segment. NABIP IL PULSE \*Virtual\*(3rd Thursday). 1 IL-CE.  
Logo on slides and our website, Linked-In post, Member newsletter ad, plus a 8-10 minute virtual presentation slot.

- February 19, 2026 8-9am CST
- March 19, 2026 8-9am CST
- April 16, 2026 8-9am CST
- May 21, 2026 8-9am CST
- June 18, 2026 8-9am CST
- July 16, 2026 8-9am CST

- September 17, 2026 8-9am CST
- October 15, 2026 8-9am CST
- November 19, 2026 8-9am CST
- December 17, 2026 8-9am CST

Note, our August symposium will have a separate sponsorship menu.

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Please make your check payable to "NABIP Illinois" and mail along with this registration form to:  
NABIP IL PO Box 59216 Schaumburg, IL 60159-0216

**Please note: Sponsor approval is required by the NABIP Illinois Board of Trustees**

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Questions : Please contact TJ Bullock, NABIP Illinois President-Elect  
Email: [INFO@NABIPILLINOIS.ORG](mailto:INFO@NABIPILLINOIS.ORG) #773-882-6400

**Please visit our website for additional event & agenda information [www.NABIPIllinois.org](http://www.NABIPIllinois.org)**