



NABIP

Shaping the future of healthcare

NEWSLETTER

January 2026

We are excited to kick-off the New Year!

Leadership doesn't happen by accident—it's built through connection, collaboration, and a willingness to keep learning. That's exactly what's on tap at the NABIP Illinois Annual Leadership Conference – Virtual Edition, happening Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 8:00–10:00 a.m. CST on Zoom.

What to Expect

- “The Power of WE” with Regional NABIP Membership Chair Suzy Alberts, exploring why collaboration—not competition—is the real competitive advantage in today's complex benefits landscape.
- A Federal Legislative Update from our NABIP Illinois Legislative Committee, breaking down key developments from Washington and what they mean for brokers, clients, and employers.
- Leadership Lessons with Keith Wallace, NABIP National Secretary, offering a clear look at NABIP's national-to-local structure and why Chapter Certification is the gold standard for strong chapters.
- A thought-provoking leadership session with Alycia Riedyl, sharing practical ways to lead with credibility and conviction.

In a profession built on trust and problem-solving, leadership is a team sport. This conference is your invitation to lean into the “WE,” strengthen your voice, and help shape the future of NABIP Illinois.

Mark your calendar, log in, and bring your coffee—we'll see you on January 15.

Sincerely, Your NABIP Illinois Board



NABIP

*Leadership
Conference*
virtual edition

REGISTER NOW

**Thursday, January 15, 2025
8-10am CST**

NABIP Members = Free

NABIP IL Members = 2 IL-CE

Please note, guests of NABIP IL members may attend however they are not eligible for CE.

Register online at www.NABIPIllinois.org

National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals
Illinois Chapter



Leadership Conference

***Virtual Edition* Thursday, January 15, 2026 8-10am CST**
NABIP Illinois members earn 2 IL-CE

Register online at www.NABIPIllinois.org



**Suzy Alberts, Membership
NABIP Region 3**



**Alycia Riedl, NABIP BOT
Immediate Past-President**



**Keith Wallace, NABIP BOT
Treasurer & Secretary**



**Missie Shepherd,
NABIP IL Leg Committee Co-Chair**



**NABIP Illinois - Lou Reginelli, Past
President; Sara Walker-Hite, President;
TJ Bullock, President-Elect**



SCAN ME

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. 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 with questions.



Your Chapters Needs 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-Elect TJ Bullock at info@nabipillinois.org if you would like to learn more. The board will provide training to those appointed.

Calendar at a glance | Visit www.NABIPillinois.org for more information

Monday, January 12, 2026 3-4pm NABIP Illinois State Board Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2026 8-10am NABIP Illinois Annual Leadership Conference | Virtual

Friday, January 16, 2026 7:30-10:30am NABIP, NAIFA, BIG I - Joint Legislative Breakfast | Arrowhead Country Club in Wheaton, IL

Friday, January 16, 2026 Noon-3pm NABIP, NAIFA, BIG I - Joint Legislative Lunch | Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, IL

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 22-24th NABIP Annual Capitol Conference in 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

Member Meeting & Industry Education | Virtual & In-Person Options

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

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

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

* NABIP Region 3 & NABIP IL hosting a breakout info and networking session - time tbd *

Calendar at a glance | Visit www.NABIPIllinois.org for more information

Monday, May 13th - Tentative NABIP Suburban Chicago Expo SAVE THE DATE! Additional information coming soon.

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 27-30th Annual NABIP Convention | Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, NJ

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


National calendar at a glance | Visit www.NABIP.org for more info


 Join NABIP President Susan Rider on Thursday, January 8 at 4 p.m. ET for the President's Pitstop, a follow-up to the recent NABIP Town Hall discussion. This session is Townhall segment to continue the dialogue by addressing key questions raised by members, providing additional clarity on governance and operations, and reaffirming NABIP's commitment to transparency, accountability, and organizational stability. Members are encouraged to attend and stay engaged as we move forward—together. Register today.


 **Command the Shield: The Cino Security Intelligence Series:** Join NABIP and Cino Security Solutions for an exclusive 8-part monthly cybersecurity education series designed to strengthen your organization's defenses, enhance compliance, and improve risk governance. Led by experts Frederick Santasiere and Joseph Saracino, each one-hour session delivers actionable insights and practical tools based on NIST and ISO standards. Register now for this webinar, sponsored by Cino Security Solutions, on Wednesday, January 14, from 1-2 p.m. ET.

 **Precision Medicine is Here: Learn How Brokers Can Support Their Valued Clients:** Explore the transformative impact of Precision Medicine on healthcare delivery in this essential webinar series. As genomic profiling reshapes treatment—especially in oncology—brokers and benefit professionals must adapt to provide strategic guidance. Join experts Arthur Taft, Lena Chaihorsky, and Eric Rosenberg as they discuss what Precision Medicine means for ERISA Benefit Plans, clinical practices, and the future of data-driven care. [Register now](#) for session five, “What is in the Data?” on Thursday, January 15, from 1-2 p.m. ET, where you'll dive into genomic data, privacy, interpretation, and implications for brokers and plans.

National calendar at a glance | Visit www.NABIP.org for more info

 **Understanding Medicare Estimation and Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Rules:** Join Mike Smith for an in-depth session designed for agents, brokers, account executives, account managers, and benefit professionals. Learn how to determine when Medicare is primary or secondary, avoid compliance pitfalls, and effectively communicate MSP rules to protect beneficiaries and plan sponsors. By the end of this session, you'll be able to explain MSP rules, identify payer status in various scenarios, understand the Medicare estimation process, apply coordination of benefits, and recognize key compliance obligations. Register now to join us on Tuesday, January 20, from 1-2 p.m. ET. This session has been filed for 1 CE credit in all 50 states.

 **Spanish Language Benefits Education ("SLBE") Certification:** Equip yourself to ethically, legally, and effectively support Spanish-speaking employees throughout the benefits lifecycle. This two-part program, led by Melissa Burkhart and Suzanne Ridenhour, focuses on regulatory standards, cultural competency, and suitability, using real-world case studies to help brokers minimize E&O risk and fulfill ethical obligations. Strengthen your ability to serve linguistically diverse workforces and enhance client relationships. Register now for this certification, in partnership with the Coalition for Inclusion in Benefits and Insurance, to join us on Tuesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 3-5 p.m. each day. This certification has been filed for 2 CE credit in all 50 states.

 **How Brokers Can Win More Clients in 2026: A Sales Acceleration Session with Todd Hartley:** Join the CAHIP-SD for a high-impact session with Todd Hartley, bestselling author and renowned sales expert. Learn how to win trust fast, double your close rate, and turn meetings—virtual or in-person—into client-converting experiences. With strategies that have driven over \$6 billion in revenue, this workshop will help you scale your book of business and deliver real ROI. Register now for this webinar on Thursday, January 29, from 1-2:30 p.m. ET.

2026 LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Join us for a very important opportunity to hear about the issues facing the insurance and financial industry.

Big I Illinois
National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors - Illinois
National Association of Benefits & Insurance Professionals of Illinois (NABIP)
Big I DuPage Illinois

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00 - 10:30 am (Registration at 7:30 am)

Arrowhead Country Club, Wheaton

COST: \$40

Evan Manning, Big I Illinois Government Relations Director and lobbyist for NAIFA-IL and NABIP will present an issues update, including an association update. This is a great opportunity to meet your elected officials and educate them on what you do for your clients. Local Legislators have been invited to attend and address the audience.

Registration & Payment

Name: _____

Company/Agency: _____

Association Affiliation: Big I Illinois NAIFA NABIP Big I DuPage

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Check (payable to Big I Illinois) Credit Card

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Return form by 1/9/26 to emanning@ilbigi.org or mail to:

Big I Illinois
PO Box 3352
Springfield, IL 62708-3352
Contact Evan with questions - (217) 321-3002

Register online at ilbigi.org.



2026 LOCAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCH

Join us for a very important opportunity to hear about the issues facing the insurance and financial industry.

Big I Illinois
National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors - Illinois
National Association of Benefits & Insurance Professionals of Illinois (NABIP)
Big I Northeastern Illinois

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

12:30 - 3:00 pm (Registration at Noon)

Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling

COST: \$40

Evan Manning, Big I Illinois Government Relations Director and lobbyist for NAIFA-IL and NABIP will present an issues update, including an association update. This is a great opportunity to meet your elected officials and educate them on what you do for your clients. Local Legislators have been invited to attend and address the audience.



Registration & Payment

Name: _____

Company/Agency: _____

Association Affiliation: Big I Illinois NAIFA NABIP Northeastern Illinois IIA

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Check (payable to Big I Illinois) Credit Card

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Return form by 1/9/26 to emanning@ilbigi.org or mail to:

Big I Illinois
PO Box 3352
Springfield, IL 62708-3352
Contact Evan with questions - (217) 321-3002

Register online at ilbigi.org.



Save the Date 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. This offer is not transferable and is limited to eligible members of our local chapter.

Chicago Chapter NABIP members - Email Info@NABIPillinois.org for your free ticket link to register!

BenefitsPRO. BROKER EXPO

 April 28 - 30, 2026  Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago

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



Company Name :

Mailing Address :

Contact Name :

Contact Email :

Contact Phone :

Virtual Event Sponsorship:

■ \$200 NABIP IL Annual Leadership Conference *Virtual*

January 15, 2026 2 IL-CE 8-10am CST

Logo on slides and our website, Linked-In post, Member newsletter ad, plus a 8-10 minute virtual presentation slot.

■ \$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.

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

Questions : Please contact TJ Bullock, NABIP Illinois President-Elect

Email: INFO@NABIPILLINOIS.ORG #773-882-6400

Please visit our website for additional event & agenda information www.NABIPIllinois.org