

National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals

Illinois Chapter



Shaping the *future* of healthcare

NEWSLETTER

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. COLLABORATE. ELEVATE



ADVOCATING
FOR OUR
INDUSTRY



CONNECTING
OUR MEMBERS
AND PARTNERS



INSPIRING
EXCELLENCE
TOGETHER

MAY
2026



Find Out How Today.

Dear Member,

NABIP Illinois was proud to have a strong presence at this year's Annual Illinois Insurance Legislative Day in Springfield, Illinois. Members showed up with purpose—hearing directly from legislators, sharing real-world client stories, and reinforcing the critical role brokers play in protecting access to affordable, high-quality coverage.

That same momentum carried into Chicago, where NABIP Illinois showed up strong at the 2026 BenefitsPRO Broker Expo at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. From meaningful conversations on the expo floor to our own networking breakout, the message was clear: brokers are not just relevant—we are essential. This industry is evolving quickly, and those who stay engaged are the ones helping shape its future.

I encourage you to register now for the NABIP Annual Convention in June and make plans to attend the NABIP Illinois State Symposium & Region 3 Leadership Summit in August. Be sure to also explore the many local chapter events and professional development opportunities available to you.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Sincerely,

Sara Walker-Hite, President

Email: Info@NABIPIllinois.org



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NABIP ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE EVENT

ADVOCATING FOR OUR INDUSTRY. DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.



NABIP SUBURBAN CHICAGO ANNUAL EXPO



Wednesday
May 13, 2026



8:30 AM
4:30 PM



The Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club
1400 Poplar Creek Dr
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Register on Eventbrite



www.nabipil.org.com



ANNUAL 2026

GOLF OUTING

Tickets & Pricing

About Tournament



Mark Your Calendars!

Join us for the 2026 NABIP Heart of Illinois Golf Outing on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Lick Creek Golf Course in Pekin, IL! This fun day on the greens brings together insurance professionals for networking, friendly competition, and community spirit.

- Tee off, enjoy lunch, and connect with peers while supporting a great cause. Don't miss this highlight of our spring events!

Schedule

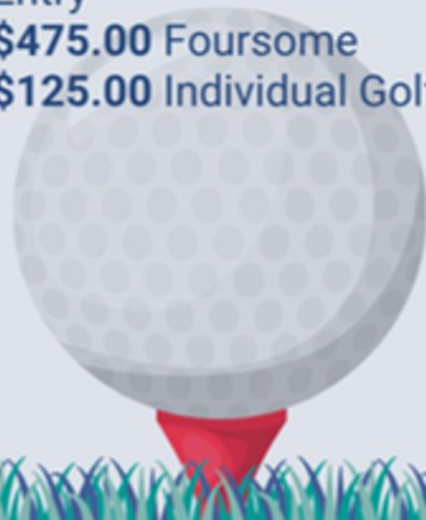
08:00 Registration

08:30 Tee Time

02:00 Awards

[Register Now](#)

- \$1,000.00 Platinum Sponsor
- \$800.00 Gold Sponsor
- \$700.00 Registration
- \$550.00 Awards
- \$150.00 Hole Sponsor
- \$150.00 Putting Contest Sponsor
- \$20.00 Foursome Team Package - Mulligans
- \$5.00 Individual - Mulligan
- \$20.00 Putting Contest - Entry
- \$475.00 Foursome
- \$125.00 Individual Golfer



RACING AHEAD

PROGRESS. INNOVATION. DRIVE.



NABIP ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 27-30, 2026
HARRAH'S RESORT
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

Join us in ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, JUNE 27-30, 2026, for NABIP's Annual Convention—a high-octane experience designed to fuel your success and move you toward your best professional self. 🏁

HERE'S WHAT AWAITS YOU:



CONNECT

Build powerful relationships with industry leaders, experts, and peers.



LEARN

Engage in high-impact sessions that expand your knowledge and sharpen your skills.



INNOVATE

Explore cutting-edge solutions in our exhibit hall to elevate your business and drive real results.



RACE AHEAD

Experience the perfect blend of professional growth, networking, and the energy of Atlantic City.



BECOME A SPONSOR

SHOWCASE YOUR BRAND. MAKE AN IMPACT.



REGISTER TODAY

SECURE YOUR SPOT. INVEST IN YOU.



WWW.NABIP.ORG



NABIP ILLINOIS STATE SYMPOSIUM + REGION 3 LEADERSHIP CONNECT SUMMIT

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

PINSTRIPES OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

Join Us for a Day of Connection, Leadership & Growth

NABIP Illinois is excited to welcome members, leaders, and industry partners from across the state and Region 3 for a dynamic day of **collaboration, professional development, and meaningful connection.**

This year's Symposium, combined with the Region 3 Leadership CONNECT Summit, brings together some of the **brightest minds** in our industry to share ideas, **strengthen leadership skills,** and build lasting relationships.



WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

- Engage with fellow insurance and benefits professionals
- Gain valuable insights and leadership perspectives
- Expand your network across Illinois and Region 3
- Be part of the conversation shaping the future of our industry



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Educational sessions with CE opportunities
- Leadership development and collaboration
- Networking with peers and industry leaders
- Post-event social: Happy Hour, Bowling & Bocce



BRING A GUEST - "ASK ONE, ADD ONE"

Invite a colleague or industry partner to join you and experience the value of NABIP firsthand.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



Visit www.NABIPillinois.org for registration and event updates.



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

We Look Forward to Seeing You in Oak Brook!

The Annual Linda Erlenbach Lifetime Achievement Award -

Nomination deadline: June 30, 2026.

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

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

Committee Reports:

NABIP Illinois Officer Ballot | July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 term | June 1-15 E-Vote
Our Nominations Committee has assembled an outstanding slate of volunteers—truly a fantastic group. Thank you to each of you for your continued dedication, and to our members for supporting and uplifting these leaders. Voting will be open via email to active NABIP Illinois members via electronic voting June 1-15, 2026.

Officer Ballot (Elected Positions):

President - TJ Bullock
President Elect - Melissa Shepherd
Vice President - David Flores
Treasurer - Laura Blomgren
Secretary - Karley Hoagland
Past President - Sara Walker-Hite



Committee Chair Applicants (Appointed Positions):

Legislation - Joshua Garrett, Carrie Espinosa, Melissa Shephard
Membership - Donovan Dubois
Member Recognition/Awards - Heather John
Professional Development - Robert Slayton
* Continuing Education Administration - Tammy Riddle
Media and Communication - Katie Knox
* Newsletter and Social Media - David Flores
PAC - Jerry Jackson
Greg Smith Scholarship - Melissa Shepherd

Please reach out to TJ Bullock at info@nabipillinois.org if you would like to learn more. NABIP National along with the NABIP Illinois State Board will provide training to those elected and/or appointed.

IT'S TIME TO **SHOW YOUR PRIDE!**

Be **PROUD** of The work you do as an Agent or Broker and show off your pride by wearing the official gear of **Brokers Making A Difference**



Want To Find NABIP Merch You Can Purchase Yourself? Scan the QR or  <https://nabip.qbstores.com/home>

ALL Profits Go To NABIP Foundation



Jackets and Outerwear

Sweatshirts and Hoodies



Polos and Dress Shirts

Many T-Shirts Styles



Back Packs, Travel Bags, Hats and More



✓ Multiple Logos, Styles & Colors To Choose From

✓ Sizes from Youth to 6xl

SCAN



ALL Profits Go To NABIP Foundation

<https://nabip.qbstores.com/home>

Committee Reports:



Operation Shout

Share the Surveys: Our voices are strongest when paired with real stories. Ask your clients to participate in NABIP's Individual or Medicare survey. Their testimonials about working with a broker are critical in shaping legislative conversations.

<https://nabip.org/who-we-are/brokers-making-a-difference/submit-stories>

Operation Shout: Bookmark the Operation Shout page. This is our rapid-response advocacy hub. Right now, we need every member — and every non-member you can encourage — to ACT on Operation Shout for S. 2625 – Independent BROKERS TIME Act of 2025. Contact your elected officials today and ask others in your network to do the same. Remember: you don't need to be a NABIP member to participate.

<https://www.votervoice.net/NABIP/home>



NABIP

Leading Producers Round Table

Leading Today. Inspiring Tomorrow.



The deadline for all LPRT membership applications is **MAY 31ST**.



If you are submitting applications for multiple individuals and they are all complete, contact **Brooke Willson** for the appropriate payment form.



Please feel free to contact us if you have LPRT questions or issues with the online process at **LPRT@nabip.org**.



All 2026 LPRT members will receive an exclusive invitation to attend the Atlantic City Comedy Club for a dinner and a show.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS FUN EVENING, JOIN NOW!



The Leading Producers Round Table (LPRT) formed in 1942 to recognize the successful underwriters of accident and health insurance. Today, the LPRT committee is committed to making LPRT the premier program for top **health, disability, long-term care and worksite marketing insurance producers, carrier reps, carrier management, and general agency/agency managers.**



<https://nabip.org/membership-resources/lprt-leading-producers-round-table>

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

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

Wednesday, May 13th - NABIP Suburban Chicago
Annual Expo | Hoffman Estates, IL

Monday, May 14, 2026 8am-2pm NABIP Heart of Illinois
Annual Golf Outing | Lick Creek Golf Course in Pekin, IL

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

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

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 | Zoom

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 | Zoom

Thursday, August 17, 2026 NABIP Illinois State Symposium + Region 3 Leadership CONNECT Summit
Professional Development & Networking | Pinstripes Oak Brook, Illinois (in lieu of zoom 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 | Zoom

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 | Zoom

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

