



NEWSLETTER
KEEPING YOU CONNECTED & CURRENT

NABIP-Dallas Member Spotlight: Meghann High

Meghann has been a member of NABIP since 2007. She served as the Professional Development chair for the Tulsa Chapter from 2010 to 2016. As an Oklahoma native, she started her career working at CommunityCare, Oklahoma’s locally owned health insurance carrier in 1997 to 2007. In 2007, she transitioned to the broker side, where she worked as an Account Manager for nine years. She later started her own insurance agency in 2016. She also served on the Oklahoma Insurance Department’s CE Advisory Committee from 2016 – 2023.

She later met and married her husband, Jake, who is from East Texas. They decided to move their family to Rockwall, Texas this past summer and open a second location with their agency.

Meghann has now joined the NABIP-TX Chapter and is serving as the Professional Development Chair.



NABIP-Dallas October Meeting

October 18, 2023, Vouv Event Center in Dallas

NABIP-Dallas hosted Shannon Meroney, President of Meroney Public Affairs, for a presentation on “Healthcare Hot Topics- 2023 Texas Legislative Update” on Wednesday, October 18. This event offered one hour of continuing education credit.

What attendees learned:

- Reviewed executive and legislative leadership in Texas this past session and their positions on health care and insurance committees.
- Discussed hot health care topics at the Texas Capitol during the 88th legislative session.
- Discussed next steps and regulatory rulemaking for implementation.



We reviewed the NABIP-TX Health Insurance & Benefits Legislative Priorities and how lawmakers impacted them. We will also discuss the actions required by employers for each of these bills.

CE Provider: TAHU (NABIP-Texas)

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Welcome New Member!

Lizanne Brandt,
Fountain Health

NABIP-Texas Legislative Update

The historic impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton begins next week, and NABIP-Texas members have been asking plenty of questions about it... including a) the charges/articles of impeachment; b) the key players; and c) the process. It's been said that the upcoming Senate trial is neither a criminal nor civil proceeding, but rather a political trial.



So, without attempting to make predictions or pick sides, here's our brief primer on what to expect beginning on Tuesday, September 5th. One of our favorite political publications – The Texas Tribune – has offered comprehensive coverage around the impeachment, so if you'd like to read more, or dig deeper into a particular topic, we have linked to more than twenty Tribune articles throughout this Meroney Memo column.

First, near the end of the regular legislative session in May, the House of Representatives started a political earthquake by impeaching AG Paxton on a variety of charges including bribery, misappropriation of resources, interference in a federal investigation, abuse of office, breach of fiduciary obligation and dereliction of duty, among others. At the time, they said the impeachment is not about punishing Paxton, but protecting the State of Texas. When the House impeached Paxton on a vote of 121-23, he was temporarily suspended from his duties as AG. By the way, the vote to impeach was bipartisan, with 60 Republicans and 61 Democrats voting aye.

Second, it will be up to the Texas Senate to conduct a trial to determine if Paxton is convicted or acquitted of any of the articles of impeachment. Each Senator will serve as a juror except for Sen. Angela Paxton (R, SD 8, McKinney) who is married to Attorney General Paxton and who (by the adopted Senate rules) can be present during the trial but cannot deliberate or vote. If any article results in a conviction, Paxton will be permanently removed from office. If we presume all 12 Senate Democrats will vote to convict, then half (9 of 18) voting Senate Republicans would be needed to reach the required 21 votes to convict and remove Paxton.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick will serve as presiding officer – essentially the judge of the trial. He has issued a broad gag order and appointed former appeals court judge, Lana Myers, to serve as counsel to help Lt. Gov. Patrick through rulings over evidence, admissibility and objections.

The case will be presented (or prosecuted) by twelve House Managers and their hired lawyers, including Texas legends Dick DeGuerin and Rusty Hardin. The case will be defended by Attorney General Paxton’s hired lawyers, including the high-profile lawyer Tony Buzbee, who recently announced he would run for Houston City Council.



Paxton has said he will not testify at the trial. Although the House Managers may try compelling him to take the stand but can’t force him to testify. House Managers have not said publicly who they plan to call to testify, but a list of several dozen potential witnesses has been leaked to media outlets. We anticipate testimony from several of the whistleblowers (former top lieutenants who reported directly to Paxton and made their allegations to the FBI), or Paxton’s former personal assistant who once revered the Attorney General as his political hero.

Most of the allegations are tied to former Austin real estate mogul Nate Paul who was under federal investigation and has since been charged with lying to lenders about his finances. Paul apparently wielded outsized influence over Paxton, enough for his top staff members to repeatedly warn their boss that he was in grave danger of breaking the law to help Paul.

Paxton’s legal team has said there is no evidence to support impeachment, attempting to dismiss or invalidate those articles. Texas House impeachment managers submitted nearly 4,000 pages of exhibits providing new and exhaustive details of their allegations of abuse of office.

Now, with the clock ticking toward the trial, far-right friends are fighting hard and spending big to protect their most important ally — and to stave off a major loss amid their ongoing fight for control of the Texas GOP. Defend Texas Liberty, a political action committee that has donated millions of dollars to far-right candidates in the state, has issued threats to fellow Republicans with primary challenges if they voted to impeach or convict. The Defend Texas Liberty PAC is a key part of the mix of political campaigns, institutions and dark-money groups that a trio of West Texas oil tycoons — Tim Dunn and brothers Farris and Dan Wilks — have pumped small fortunes into as part of a long-term crusade to push Texas to the extreme right.

And amid increased Republican rumors that he’s about to resign to try to avoid testifying in his upcoming impeachment trial, Paxton pushed back last weekend and proclaimed he would “never stop fighting for the people of Texas and defending our conservative values.

Finally, ex-Governor Rick Perry infuriated Paxton supporters on the right with an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal that Texans deserve a full airing of allegations in the Senate trial.

If you are curious (and bored), you can read all the legal filings and evidence submitted to the court (Senate) by both House Managers and lawyers for Paxton. If you want to watch the proceedings online, you can click on the Senate livestream. If you want to attend in person, you’ll need a ticket to enter the Senate chamber’s gallery. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis each day for the morning and after-noon sessions.



Fast Facts

- NABIP submitted a [comment letter](#) this week in response to the tri-agencies' latest draft regulation on mental health parity. You can also read an executive summary of our comments [here](#).
- While the federal government may be shutting down this weekend, there was no shortage of work on healthcare items in the House Ways and Means Committee. Congressman Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) recently introduced [H.R. 5688](#), also known as the Bipartisan HSA Improvement Act of 2023, which would implement some commonsense NABIP-supported tax code fixes. The bill passed out of committee after a markup yesterday.
- Plan sponsors that offer prescription drug coverage must provide notices of creditable or non-creditable coverage to Medicare-eligible individuals. [Read more in this week's Compliance Now blog post!](#)
- Are you a Medicare agent who is concerned about compliance with new marketing requirements beginning October 1? NABIP's Medicare Advisory Group hosted their first quarterly National Medicare Moment webinar, where Chris Hagerstrom, executive director of communication and training at Jack Schroeder and Associates, provided an overview of the latest marketing requirements for this year's AEP and best practices for handling the changes. [Watch it here!](#)
- In this week's State Spotlight: Pennsylvania lawmakers recently introduced [SB 372](#), which would allow savings from certain prescription drug financial assistance programs to count toward individuals' overall cost-sharing for their plan. However, due to legal conflicts between state and federal law, passing such legislation renders those covered under a high-deductible HSA plan ineligible to contribute to their HSA.
- On this week's episode of the Healthcare Happy Hour: Senior Vice President of Government Affairs John Greene reviews the latest mental health parity proposed rule and NABIP's response.

NABIP's *Washington Update* is authored by Dan Parker, senior director of policy and engagement.

NABIP Member Resources

- ❖ [NABIP](#) Membership gets you access to local chapter membership through [NABIP-Dallas](#) and access to the state chapter membership through [NABIP-Texas](#).
- ❖ NABIP-Dallas meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month (with the exception of December) at Vouy Event Center (4445 Sigma Road, Dallas, TX 75244).
- ❖ New NABIP-Dallas members can register for their first lunch meeting at no cost. Email dahu.org@gmail.com to confirm your registration.
- ❖ The NABIP-Dallas chapter makes efforts to offer continuing education (CE) credit as often as possible. The [Lone Star \(Virtual\) Chapter](#) frequently offers online CE webinars at no cost for NABIP-Texas members.

THE PRESIDENT'S 2023
NABIP
Triple Crown Program

NABIP created the President's Triple Crown Program to recognize those members whose individual contributions to NABIP help advance the association's mission. Like baseball's Triple Crown, it recognizes accomplishment in three key areas. However, while baseball's Triple Crown hasn't been won since 1967, the Triple Crown can be won every year by hundreds of our members.

Criteria

To qualify for the Triple Crown, within the calendar year, a member must:

- NABIP PAC: Participate in the \$12 x 12 draft program or contribute \$150 a year
- Membership: Recruit at least two new members
- Advocacy: Use Operation Shout to send at least three messages

One, two, three - it's that simple!

While members have the entire year to complete the requirements, winners will be announced quarterly. Once a member achieves Triple Crown, their name will appear only once on the specific quarterly qualifiers report in the quarter in which the recognition was obtained. Once earned, the member has qualified for that calendar year.

Recognition

Members who meet these criteria will be recognized in a variety of ways, including a unique "President's Triple Crown" lapel pin and recognition in ABS magazine, and on NABIP's website.

The Triple Crown Club

Recognizes members who have achieved the Triple Crown recognition for 3 consecutive years or more. Qualifiers will be determined and recognized at Annual Convention.

Criteria

- Emerald Level - Received the Triple Crown award for 3 consecutive years
- Ruby Level - Received the Triple Crown award for 5 consecutive years
- Diamond Level - Received the Triple Crown award for 10+ consecutive years
- Platinum Level - Received the Triple Crown award for 15 consecutive years

Members who qualify for Presidents Club will be recognized with special ribbons at Annual Convention, recognition in ABS magazine, and on the website

CLAIM YOUR CROWN!

Address your questions to: membership@nabip.org



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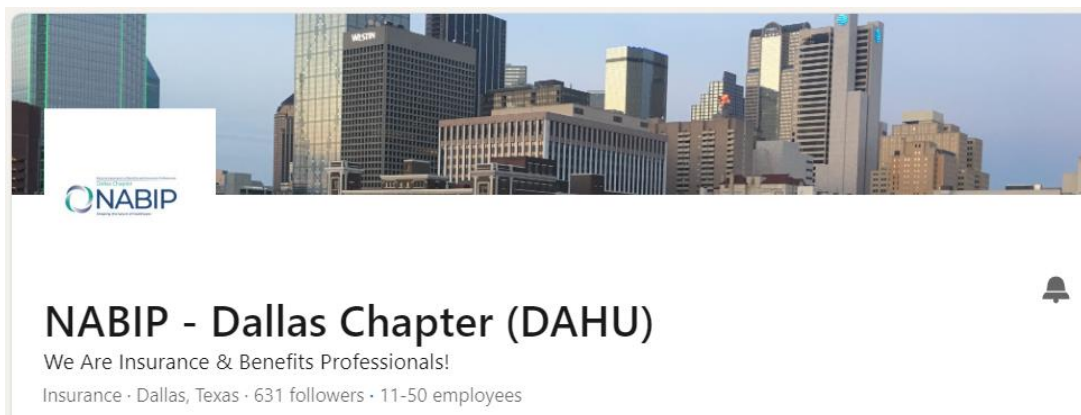
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