



### NABIP-Dallas Member Spotlight: Taylor Kirkhart

- Taylor Kirkhart is currently serving as the President of NABIP-Dallas
- Taylor joined NABIP in 2017 and has served in the following roles: Vanguard Chair for Region 6 and NABIP-Texas, and Legislative Chair, Professional Development Chair, and Vice President for NABIP-Dallas
- Taylor was encouraged to join NABIP (then NAHU) while working for her grandmother’s company, who is a former Dallas chapter President
- She currently works as a Senior Client Manager for the Rx Solutions team, the internal pharmacy center of excellence for Marsh McLennan Agency
- The Rx Solutions team partners with MMA account teams across the country to evaluate pharmacy contracts and identify creative solutions for clients
- Taylor has been married to her husband, also named Taylor, for 8 years and they have a two-year-old son and an Australian Shepherd together



### NABIP-Dallas November Meeting

November 15, 2023, Vouv Event Center in Dallas

Jennifer Stanley, founder of StanleyKup Compliance, led a discussion and CE presentation titled Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance & Litigation Update. Jennifer did not tell attendees how to attest in this scenario – she told us what to do instead of attesting. She bolstered her position by providing relevant litigation updates.

Meet our speaker:

- Jennifer is a seasoned compliance attorney with a passion for unraveling the complexities of employee benefits compliance.
- Her journey has brought her face-to-face with the challenges that employers encounter with their health insurance and benefits plans, and it has been her mission to provide them with a reliable resource to navigate this ever-evolving landscape.
- In 2023, Jennifer launched StanleyKup Compliance with a clear objective in mind: to extend a helping hand to independent brokers who don’t have access to an in-house compliance department.
- As a licensed practitioner in the State of Texas and holding a Texas General Lines – Life, Accident, Health, and HMO License, Jennifer is committed to fostering compliance excellence and helping brokers succeed.



CE Provider: StanleyKup Data Services dba StanleyKup Consulting  
Provider #: 201108 | CE #: 136831

## 2023–2024 Board of Directors

President: Taylor Kirkhart  
Secretary: Cindy Goodman  
Awards Chair: Carmen Freeman  
Legislative Chair: Claire Pancerc  
Communications Chair: Jared Leshin  
Sponsorship Chair: Suzanne Crim  
Trustee: Rita Rolf

Past President: Jennifer Stanley  
Treasurer: David Weber  
Awards Committee Chair: Caitlin Mathis  
Membership Chair: Karen Burkholder  
Professional Development: Meghann High  
Vanguard Chair: Stephen Snyder  
Executive Assistant: Patricia Pattison

## Welcome New Member!

**Patrick Robinson**  
Advantage PHC, Inc.

## NABIP-Texas Legislative Update

When the impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton began several weeks ago, we told you it was neither a criminal nor civil proceeding, but rather a political trial. And the result rendered over the weekend was certainly a political acquittal. After spending two weeks listening to both sides make their case, Texas Senators voted to acquit Paxton on all 16 articles of impeachment. Because of the vote, Paxton will remain in office.



In closing arguments on Friday, Paxton’s legal team said the prosecution’s case was full of holes, circumstantial evidence and misdirection. And they framed Paxton as the victim of a “witch hunt” orchestrated by Texas House leadership, “the Bush dynasty” and insubordinate former deputies-turned-whistleblowers in his office.

The House impeachment managers insisted that they proved their claims of bribery and corruption, arguing that the jury of 30 senators had no choice but to convict. “Unlike the public servants here today, he has no regard for the principles of honor and integrity,” said impeachment manager Rep. Andrew Murr (R-Junction). “He has betrayed us and the people of Texas, and if he is given the opportunity, he will continue to abuse the power given to him.”

The House case centered on Paxton’s relationship with Austin real estate investor Nate Paul, his friend and political donor. The prosecution alleged that Paxton repeatedly abused his office to help Paul investigate his enemies, delay foreclosure sales of his properties, gain the upper hand in a lawsuit with a charity and obtain confidential files on the police investigating him. The closing arguments ended a nine-day trial during which the House called thirteen witnesses and the defense called four.

No article received more than 14 of the required 21 votes to convict. Only two of 19 Republican Senators, Bob Nichols of Jacksonville and Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills, voted in favor of convicting for any article — a stark contrast to the more than 70% of House Republicans who impeached the attorney general in May. Some observers said Senators appeared resentful that the House had impeached Paxton, forcing them to take public votes on whether to convict him — a divisive issue for the Republican base.

But Paxton's legal troubles are not over. He still faces state securities fraud charges, a case that has stretched out for eight years and counting, starting with an indictment just months after he took office in 2015. The case has been delayed for years by pretrial disputes — including a back-and-forth battle over the trial venue that saw it moved to Houston from Collin County, which Paxton represented as a state lawmaker. And Paxton has been under investigation by the FBI since October 2020, although no charges have been filed.

Federal investigators began their investigation after several top Paxton deputies went to the FBI and alleged the attorney general had committed crimes, including bribery, while trying to help Paul. Justice Department prosecutors who typically handle high-profile public corruption cases took over the case in February.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick broke his personal silence Saturday on the impeachment after the Senate voted for acquittal, blasting the House's impeachment process as deeply flawed. "The speaker and his team rammed through the first impeachment of a statewide official in Texas in over 100 years while paying no attention to the precedent that the House set in every other impeachment before," Patrick said from the days after the verdict was finalized.

House Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont), fired back, saying Patrick ended the trial by "confessing his bias and placing his contempt for the people's House on full display." Patrick was the presiding officer of the trial — effectively the judge — and his feelings on the matter were the subject of much speculation. While he got praise for how he handled certain aspects, like the trial rules, he also drew scrutiny for accepting \$3 million from a pro-Paxton group in late June.

Patrick also called for a state constitutional amendment reforming the impeachment process. He proposed that all House testimony should be given under oath and subject to cross examination, adding that an impeached official "should not be put on unpaid leave" while awaiting trial. Patrick also said, "millions of taxpayer dollars have been wasted on this impeachment" and called for a "full audit" of the House's spending on it.

Phelan responded with a statement that was just as hostile, saying Patrick "attacked the House for standing up against corruption." "His tirade disrespects the Constitutional impeachment process afforded to us by the founders of this great state," Phelan said. "The inescapable conclusion is that today's outcome appears to have been orchestrated from the start, cheating the people of Texas of justice."

There is no love lost between Lt. Gov. Patrick and Speaker Phelan, who have previously battled over policy issues. But Patrick's speech represented a new escalation in their feud and came after he withheld his personal opinion on the impeachment for months, trying to show he was taking the trial seriously.

Hours after the acquittal, Paxton's far-right supporters doubled down on their promises for swift retribution against fellow Republicans who supported his removal from office. In particular, they vowed a scorched-earth campaign against Speaker Phelan, casting him as the ringleader responsible for the impeachment process and calling for him to resign immediately.

Paxton's impeachment trial was the latest — and among the most consequential — battle in an ongoing civil war between the Texas GOP's establishment members and a well-funded right wing that has for years claimed the party is insufficiently conservative.

# NABIP

WASHINGTON UPDATE



### Fast Facts

- As of Wednesday, Congressman Mike Johnson (R-LA) is officially the new speaker of the House. What are Speaker Johnson's stances on healthcare issues? What does this mean for the House's agenda – and NABIP's agenda – moving forward?
- The 2023 OEP begins next week, and the "window-shopping period" began this week. Consumers visiting HealthCare.gov will have access to detailed information about each plan offered in their area for enrollment. They can review and compare plan options and find out if they are eligible for financial assistance, which can help pay monthly premiums and reduce out-of-pocket costs when receiving services.
- The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) fee, established by the ACA and currently in place through 2029, will be \$3.22 for plan years ending between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024.
- Do you have a longstanding relationship with your legislator at the state or federal levels? NABIP invites you to participate in our "grasstops" survey, a vital initiative that seeks to identify our members' connections with state and federal lawmakers.
- Dawn McFarland and Chalen Jackson, members of NABIP's Medicare Advisory Group, hosted a webinar alongside Senior Vice President of Government Affairs John Greene yesterday on the impacts that the Inflation Reduction Act has had on Part D quoting. To learn more, watch the webinar [here](#).
- In this week's State Spotlight: Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed HB 2862 into law over the summer, which amends the Day and Temporary Labor Services Act. Unfortunately, the law has been confusing for employers seeking to comply with the new requirements.
- On this week's episode of the Healthcare Happy Hour: NABIP CEO Jessica Brooks-Woods makes her official Healthcare Happy Hour debut! During her conversation with Dan, Jessica reviews how she got here, her impressions of the association thus far, her varied goals for NABIP moving forward, and much more.

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

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](mailto:membership@nabip.org)



## Sponsorships

A graphic for newsletter sponsorship. At the top, it says "NEWSLETTER SPONSOR" in large blue letters, followed by "ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS, GET MORE VISIBILITY!" in smaller teal letters. In the center, a teal circle with a dotted border contains the text "YOUR LOGO HERE" in teal, with two teal arrows pointing towards it from the left and right. At the bottom left is the NABIP logo, which includes the text "National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals", "Dallas Chapter", and "Shaping the future of healthcare". At the bottom right is a teal box with white text that says "Thank You for Your Interest in NABIP Sponsorships!" and "Call Suzanne @ 214-984-4444 & 'SAVE A DATE!'". The background of the graphic is a blue sky with a white grid pattern on the left and right sides.

**NEWSLETTER SPONSOR**  
ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS, GET MORE VISIBILITY!

**YOUR LOGO HERE**

National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals  
Dallas Chapter  
**NABIP**  
Shaping the future of healthcare

**Thank You for Your Interest in NABIP Sponsorships!**  
Call Suzanne @ 214-984-4444 & "SAVE A DATE!"

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** [SPONSORSHIP | NABIP-Dallas \(dahu.org\)](#)

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

