



NEWSLETTER
KEEPING YOU CONNECTED & CURRENT

NABIP-Dallas Upcoming Event

Join us for the NABIP-Dallas July Event!

Wednesday, July 17
Vouv Event Center in Dallas
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

The Dynamic Duo of Self-Funding
CE #140063

Presenters: Emma Fox and Tiffany Ryder



Please register in advance our [website](#)
\$40 Members | \$50 Non-Members

Sponsored by:



Are you ready to supercharge your employee benefit plans? Look no further!

Join us for “The Dynamic Duo of Self-Funding” event on July 17, 2024, where Emma Fox and Tiffany Ryder will share game-changing insights that will transform how you approach benefits.

What You’ll Gain:

1. **Cutting-Edge Strategies:** Emma and Tiffany will explore innovative plan design techniques for optimizing clinical outcomes and financial performance.
2. **Navigating ERISA:** Understand fiduciary responsibilities like a pro. Learn how vendor evaluation impacts your organization’s success.
3. **Actionable Takeaways:** Equip yourself with practical strategies to design, implement, and manage self-funded benefit plans effectively.

Meet the Speakers:

- **Emma Fox:** Managing Partner at E Powered Benefits, committed to transparency and high-performance self-funded health plans.

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- Tiffany Ryder: NFL Cheerleader turned Emergency Medicine Physician Associate, compliance enthusiast, and advocate for health care reform.

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to network, learn, and elevate your expertise. Secure your spot now. See you there!

NABIP-Dallas 2023-2024 Board of Directors

President: Taylor Kirkhart
Secretary: Cindy Goodman
Awards: Carmen Freeman
Membership: Karen Burkholder
Professional Development: Meghann High
Executive Assistant: Patricia Pattison

Past President: Jennifer Stanley
Treasurer: David Weber
Awards: Caitlin Mathis
Communications: Jared Leshin
Legislative Chair: Claire Pancerz
Trustee: Rita Rolf

Interested in giving back to the association and joining our team? We have multiple open board positions and volunteer opportunities, such as: Vice President (requires two years of service on a NABIP Board or similar association (such as NAIFA), Membership Co-Chair, Retention Chair, Sponsorship Chair, Legislative Co-Chair, as well as opportunities to assist us with special projects, events, and charity initiatives. Board meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of every month.

For more information, please contact us at dahu.org@gmail.com

Highlights from the NABIP-Dallas June Meeting



Induction of the 2024-2024 NABIP-Dallas Board of Directors

Pictured: Michelle McLaren, Karen Burkholder, Taylor Kirkhart, Jennifer Stanley, Forrest Huggins, Meghann High, and Carmen Freeman

Highlights from the NABIP-Dallas June Meeting



Christina Hageny, President at Valor Payroll Solutions, taught a 1-hour CE course titled “The Pros and Cons of PEOs” (CE #139600) at the NABIP-Dallas meeting on June 19 at Vouv Event Center.

Legislative Updates from the NABIP-Texas Lobbyists – Shannon & Mike Meroney

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) emerged with a very narrow victory in last month’s Primary Runo election over a well-funded challenger endorsed by former President Donald Trump and his allies. By just 366 votes (50.7-49.3%), Phelan defeated former Orange County Republican Party chairman David Covey, who also had the backing of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton and former Texas Republican Party Chairman Matt Rinaldi.



Phelan avoided becoming the first House speaker to lose a Primary election in 52 years. Covey called Phelan an “Austin swamp creature” who only secured reelection through the support of Democrats, which he said was a “brazen act of betrayal.” Paxton said the speaker had “blatantly stolen an election from the hard-working people of his district” by courting Democrats. Paxton said Republicans should move to closed primaries — a priority of the far right — and he issued a warning to members of the House: “To those considering supporting Dade Phelan as Speaker in 2025, ask your 15 colleagues who lost re-election how they feel about their decision now,” Paxton said. “You will not return if you vote for Dade Phelan again.”

On the morning of runoff, newly elected Texas GOP Chair Abraham George called for an end to the Republican civil war. “Let’s all come together and row in the same direction,” he said, urging the warring factions of the party to “focus on defeating Democrats” once the primaries were over. For George and his far-right allies, the call was contingent on Phelan losing his Runoff that evening, allowing Republicans to coalesce behind an even more conservative leader who would run the chamber by rejecting bipartisan compromise. Instead, Phelan eked out a win in his Southeast Texas district and vowed to keep control of the gavel next year — and the facade of unity dissolved.

Phelan has been a lightning rod for the GOP’s ultraconservative wing since he backed Paxton’s impeachment on corruption and bribery charges last spring. The hard right, led by Paxton and Lt. Gov. Patrick, accused Phelan of ceding too much power to Democrats and went all out trying to oust him and his allies in the primary. In the end, neither of the dueling GOP factions landed a clean knockout blow — instead they both emerged from the rubble of the rough primary season injured and emboldened, and their grudges calcified

To be elected Speaker, a House member must secure 76 votes, a majority of the 150-seat chamber. Democrats currently control 64 seats, meaning a Speaker hopeful could theoretically win with full Democratic support and around a dozen of the 86 Republicans. This is how former Speaker Joe Straus emerged in 2009 to win the gavel over incumbent Speaker Tom Craddick. To prevent this scenario, Phelan’s rivals have called for Speaker candidates to only solicit support from Republican members.

Besides Phelan’s HD 21 race, a wave of Republican incumbents were swept out of the Texas House in the primary and runoff elections. Six of the eight GOP House members who were forced into overtime lost their runoffs, continuing a surge of anti-establishment energy that had already led to the ouster of nine House Republicans in the March primary. The only other incumbent to survive was Rep. Gary VanDeaver (R, HD 1) in Northeast Texas, who defeated challenger Chris Spencer (53.5-46.5%).

Incumbents who lost include:

- **Rep. Justin Holland** (R, HD 33) defeated by Katrina Pierson (43.6- 56.4%)
- **Rep. John Kuempel** (R, HD 44) defeated by former Rep. Alan Schoolcraft (44.5-55.5%)
- **Rep. DeWayne Burns** (R, HD 58) defeated by Helen Kerwin (42.5- 57.5%)
- **Rep. Frederick Frazier** (R, HD 61) defeated by Keresa Richardson (32.4- 67.6%)
- **Rep. Lynn Stucky** (R, HD 64) defeated by Andy Hopper (41.9- 58.1%)
- **Rep. Stephanie Klick** (R, HD 91) defeated by David Lowe (43.4-56.6%)
- **Rep. Shawn Thierry** (D, HD 146) defeated by Lauren Ashley Simmons (35.4-64.6%)

In other races:

- **Trey Wharton** beat Ben Bius to secure the GOP nomination for HD 12
- **Jeff Barry** beat Alex Kamkar to secure the GOP nomination for HD 29
- **AJ Lauderback** beat JeBauknight to secure the GOP nomination for HD 30
- **Jonathan Gracia** beat Ruben Cortez, Jr. to secure the DEM nomination for HD 37
- **Lea Simmons** beat Summara Kanwal to secure the DEM nomination for HD 76
- **Vince Perez** beat Norma Chávez to secure the DEM nomination for HD 77
- **Cecilia Castellano** beat Rosie Cuellar to secure the DEM nomination for HD 80
- **Carlos Walker** beat Diane Symons to secure the DEM nomination for HD 97
- **John McQueeney** beat Cheryl Bean to secure the GOP nomination for HD 97

- **Charlene Ward Johnson** beat Angeanette Thibodeaux to secure the DEM nomination for HD 139

In the Texas Senate:

- **Incumbent Sen. Molly Cook** (D, SD 15) holds a VERY narrow lead (74 votes) over Rep. Jarvis Johnson in the runoff for the Democratic nomination. Cook beat Johnson in early May to win a special election to fill the unexpired term of John Whitmire. With 99% of votes counted, Cook leads Johnson with 9,428 to 9,354 votes (50.2% to 49.8%).
- **Former Denton County GOP Chair Brent Hagenbuch** won the Republican primary runoff to succeed retiring state Sen. Drew Springer. Hagenbuch (56.7%) defeated Jace Yarbrough (43.3%). Questions about Hagenbuch’s residency and whether he could run in the district shadowed his primary campaign — and aren’t resolved yet. The third-place primary candidate Carrie De Moor, later joined by Yarbrough, sued Hagenbuch, arguing that his primary residence was in neighboring Senate District 12 rather than the office building listed in his SD 30 campaign filings. If Hagenbuch is declared ineligible by a court before late August, he could lose his place on the ballot. A GOP executive committee, likely precinct chairs in the district, would then elect a replacement candidate.

It was a cutthroat primary and runoff season even by Texas’ standards, defined by relentless attacks on candidates’ integrity and distortions of their voting records, all amplified by historic levels of campaign ad spending. And it only seemed to lay the groundwork for more chaos and strife, with no clear end in sight. Buckle up.

Become a Monthly NABIP-TX PAC Contributor!



DONATE TO TAHUPAC

TAHUPAC formed to support candidates and members of the Texas Legislature who have philosophies that reflect common sense and an overall understanding of the dynamics of health insurance along with recognizing how NABIP-TX is working to bring more Texans more affordable health insurance plans.

Donate now using the QR code below!





New Member Orientation

Fourth Thursday Each Month
9am (PST) 11am (CST) 12pm (EST)

Are You a New Member? Come Check it Out!

Please join the *Triple Titans*, National Membership Chair, Leslie Shelton, Vice-Chair Charlene Hogeland, and Membership Manager, Val Cramer in our monthly New Member Orientations.

Our mission is to welcome and introduce new Members to the overall NABIP experience by setting them on the path to NABIP success. We strive to provide the latest and greatest insight on Membership by helping Members learn how to:

- *Navigate the NABIP Website*
- *Enhance Your Professional Development*
- *Find an Agent or Chapter*
- *Use Your Voice for Legislative Concerns*
- *Find a Mentor*
- *Earn Accreditations*
- *Meet Like-Minded Members*
- *Make Great Connections in Our Industry*
- *Join a Committee*
- *...and MORE!*

Click [HERE](#) for Zoom Meetings!
Meeting ID: 82634203381 | Passcode: Membership

NABIP-Dallas Member Resources

- ❖ NABIP-Dallas meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month (with the exception of December) at Vouv 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.