

A Message for the Year Ahead

From the President, CAHIP

As I step into the role of President of CAHIP, I do so with a deep sense of responsibility and unwavering commitment to the professionals we serve and the consumers who depend on us.

It is also my honor to welcome each of your CAHIP Board Members and State Committee Leaders. Remember that each one of them do the work they do on your behalf, as volunteers and your peers, please thank them for giving their time and talent to serve.

VP of Member Recognition, Awards Chair, Pat Stiffler from Orange County

(She deserves big applause – CA was on stage at Convention A LOT!)

Medicare Chair Nor Cal – Greg Wolin from Central CA

Medicare Chair So Cal – Brian Billhartz from Inland Empire

DEI&B Chair – Monica Spencer from NorCal

Foundation/Community Outreach – Pat Burns from Golden Gate

VP Communications – Kristie Scavarda from Inland Empire

Communications Committee – John Elizondo, Brandi Potlongo

VP Corporate Relations – Elizabeth Underhill from Los Angeles

VP Professional Development – Manuel Alcaine from Golden Gate

VP of Membership – Irma Romero from Golden Gate

VP Public Affairs – Vanessa Ignacio from Silicon Valley

VP PAC – Jordan Futch from Santa Barbara

VP of Legislation – Janet Powelson from Golden Gate

VP of Finance – Kerry Wright from Los Angeles

President Elect – Craig Gussin from San Diego

Immediate Past President – Rosamaria Marrujo from NorCal

We face another pivotal year.

- The **single-payer threat is likely to make a comeback**; with proposals our state budget cannot afford and risk dismantling our entire system of consumer choice and private market support.
- **Agent commissions are being slashed or eliminated**, threatening not just our profession but the critical guidance we provide every day. And in some states, this is happening in the group markets, not just Medicare.
- In California, **SB 354** contains more oversight on agents that are already complying with HIPAA and HITECH standards.
- On the federal front, we are bracing to see the impact the **H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill** and the cuts to Medicaid will have across all market segments. Tune into the NABIP Compliance Corner on July 24th for a rundown.
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4436323158404264285>
- We're also watching closely as the clock ticks on the **extension of APTCs (Advance Premium Tax Credits)**, which are currently set to expire at the end of 2025.

This is a year that calls for bold leadership, strategic focus, and a unified voice. That's exactly what we are building at CAHIP. With our strategic plan as our foundation, our advocacy filters guiding where and how we engage, using the [NABIP Healthcare Bill of Rights](#) and Leadership Development initiatives like the CAHIP Farm Team, nurturing professionalism and future leadership, we are not just reacting—we are shaping the future.

But to protect and grow our profession, we must also grow our membership. The strength of our voice in Sacramento and in Washington depends on the number of professionals standing with us. Every new member expands our influence and strengthens our mission.

This year, I invite you to rise with us:

- **Invite a colleague to join.**
- **Get involved in your chapter.**
- **Lend your voice to our advocacy.**

The next sentence will sound so cliché, and in our industry could be said every year. There has never been a more important time to be part of CAHIP/NABIP. Together, we will defend what matters—and advance what's possible.

Yours in service,
Dawn McFarland
President, CAHIP