



NAIFA-TEXAS
CENTENNIAL
STATE CONFERENCE

Celebrating 100 years!

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2025

Omni Austin Hotel Downtown
700 San Jacinto at E. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78701



2025 NAIFA-TEXAS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remarkable times. History is important. Now, for 100 years, NAIFA-Texas has led countless efforts to promote our industry and the accessibility to proper levels of planning. This Centennial year, we could not be prouder and more excited to host our members, sponsors, friends, and guests from around the country.

This celebration, on behalf of the support of our gracious sponsors, will be one full of recognition, education, and motivation. Join us in welcoming those who put the dollars behind this great event. Visit, connect, and share ideas with the great organizations that for without the financial support of, this party would not be possible.

Join us as we celebrate the past, and the following day, we focus on our future. Advocacy is one of the cornerstones that makes NAIFA not only such a standout but also so critical to the success of our industry to serve our Texas community.

Thank you for the great many volunteers who have been integral in planning a worthy State Conference of such importance. I am humbled by your generosity and enthusiasm about our association.

Cheers to the next one hundred years!

Sincerely,
Richard M. Demko
CLU, ChFC, RICP, AEP, LUTCF, LACP



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To learn more about the NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors,
please visit: tx.naifa.org/board or Scan the QR code!



EVENT HOSTS



Richard M. Demko
CLU, ChFC, RICP, AEP, LUTCF, LACP

Richard 'Rick' Demko is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. He moved to Houston, Texas, with his young family in 2015. He is the Founding Principal of the Guardian Group, a boutique life insurance brokerage that serves high-net worth professionals with tax and legacy planning as well as other advisors with advanced planning and complex cases.

One prevailing theme that those around him quickly discover is his message that life insurance is a tool--an asset in the right hands, particularly in alignment with a well thought out and executed plan.

Rick was recognized as Texas' fourth national 4 Under 40 by Advisor Today (the first in Houston), inaugural Texas Young Advisor Team Leader of the Year, nine-time NAIFA Quality Award recipient, Past NAIFA Houston President, and current NAIFA-Texas President. Rick was selected as the recipient of NAIFA Houston's 2024 Hall of Fame Award and was the top honoree at their Annual Awards Dinner. He is an active member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Society of Financial Service Professionals, the Houston Estate and Financial Forum (Chapter of NAEPC), Finseca, Forum 400, and a Top of the Table qualifying member of the Million Dollar Roundtable.

Rick holds the Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC), Accredited Estate Planner (AEP), Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP), Life Underwriting Training Council Fellowship (LUTCF), and the Life and Annuity Certified Professional (LACP) designations.

Those who know him best know his faith and strong conviction. He is tirelessly active in our community as a Rotarian, Community of Faith Church member, continual volunteer, and retired Firefighter/EMT. Rick also speaks nationally to associations, consumers, and producer groups regarding proper life insurance planning strategy. Mentoring, consulting, and volunteering are all part of Rick's core beliefs, civically as well as vocationally.



Joey Ussery
CLU, ChFC, LUTCF

Joey is the Regional Vice President for John Hancock for Texas and Louisiana. He is responsible for all life brokerage in this territory. He has been with Manulife, now John Hancock, for over thirty years.

A graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, he is a Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow, a Chartered Life Underwriter, and a Chartered Financial Consultant.

He began his career in 1985 with Arthur S. Hicks, Inc. in San Antonio, and moved to Manulife in 1992. In 1993 he was the recipient of GAMA's Rookie of the Year Award. He assumed responsibility for the Houston office of Manulife in 1997.

His service to the Association began on the board of the San Antonio Association, continuing on to the Houston Association and the NAIFA Texas Board, including serving as President in 2013-2014.

Joey and his wife Darla live outside of Sealy, Texas, and are the proud parents of five sons and four granddaughters.



ABOUT THE LILI CURRICULUM

The NAIFA Leadership in Life Institute (LILI) is a six-month program offered exclusively to NAIFA members who are committed to growing intellectually and professionally through deep introspection and discussion.

The intense curriculum creates a unique learning environment that encourages participants to bring out the best in themselves and apply what is learned across every aspect of their lives.

To learn more, please visit: tdc.naifa.org/lili



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2025 NAIFA PRESIDENT

Douglas Massey
LUTCF, CLU, ChFC, CRES, FSS

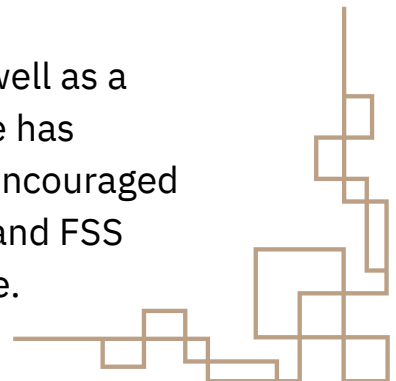


Douglas Massey is a registered representative with OFG Financial Services, Inc., where he has been since 1992. His practice specialties include retirement planning and life insurance. His company's focus is on near-retirees and retirees. He also does a significant amount of business in the non-profit and 403(b) market.

A NAIFA member since 1987, Massey has served as Chair of the IFAPAC Committee, was on the NAIFA-Texas board of directors from 2008-2014, and was President of NAIFA-Texas from 2012-2013.

He has attended every NAIFA Congressional Conference since the meeting's inception and has attended every NAIFA-Texas Legislative Day since 1991. He is one of the key contacts for State Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz and State Representative Michael Conaway.



Massey is an IFAPAC Defender (monthly contributor), as well as a contributor at several events each year. Over the years, he has recruited and sponsored many NAIFA members and has encouraged past members to do the same. He has moderated LUTCF and FSS classes and is a Leadership in Life Institute (LILI) graduate.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Around the State

Stay connected with NAIFA members across the state of Texas by attending in-person and virtual events this year.



tx.naifa.org/state-event-calendar



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 10th, 2025

General conference participants are responsible for making their own dinner arrangements on Monday evening.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Exhibitor Set-Up

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Final NAIFA-Texas 2024-2025 LILI Class

Lamar Meeting Room

The Leadership in Life Institute (LILI) is an intensive curriculum for personal growth, designed specifically to develop high-caliber association leaders. Learn more at tx.naifa.org/naifa-texas-leadership-in-life-institute

This session is exclusive to the 2024-2025 NAIFA-Texas LILI Class participants ONLY.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors Meeting

Forever Meeting Room

This session is exclusive to the NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors ONLY.

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Registration / Exhibitor Visits

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

11:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. | NAIFA-Texas 100th Business Meeting

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

This session is exclusive to NAIFA-Texas members ONLY.

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Buffet Lunch / LILI Graduation Ceremony

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

The ceremony is open to all conference participants. Please join us to learn more about the NAIFA-Texas LILI program and the journey of each graduate.

1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Refreshments Break / Exhibitor Visits

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | "Finding the Champion Within" presented by Wendy Boglioli

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

3:10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Sales Ideas from Sponsors

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

This session features our most vested sponsors and gives them the opportunity to present sales ideas, principles, concepts, successes, and more!

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Welcome Reception

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | LILI Summit

The Driskill - The Unbound Collection by Hyatt (604 Brazos Street, Austin TX 78701)

This session is exclusive to previous LILI graduates and their guests ONLY. Additional registration is required.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Breakfast

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. | Past Presidents Breakfast

Lamar Meeting Room

This session is exclusive to the NAIFA-Texas Past Presidents and will be held in a private room.

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | “What’s Next? Washington to Wall Street” presented by Bob Sellers

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Refreshments Break / Exhibitor Visits

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Legislative Appointment Training Program

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

NAIFA-Texas members participating in our Day at the Capitol. This curriculum will be presented by NAIFA-Texas Past President, Jason Talley and NAIFA-Texas Lobbyists, Michelle Wittenburg and Caitlin Flanders

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Buffet Lunch / IFAPAC Fundraiser

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

This Luncheon will include a special IFAPAC Fundraiser session, remarks from NAIFA National President, Doug Massey, and the swearing in Ceremony of 2025 Board or Directors, and remarks from NAIFA National President, Doug Massey.

1:35 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Past President’s Panel Discussion

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

This session will highlight NAIFA-Texas Past President’s and their long term involvement with legislative matters, the ongoing importance of our continued Advocacy and the actual results we’ve accomplished. Participants include Dee Carter, Dick Kuriger, and Ron Mullen with Danny O’Connell serving as moderator.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Refreshments Break / Exhibitor Visits

Bridge Foyer, 2nd Floor

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. | “Make Simplicity Your Superpower” presented by Richard Dobson

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. | Final Remarks

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Book Signing by Richard Dobson

Bridge Ballroom, 2nd Floor

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Legislative Reception & Happy Hour

The Austin Club (110 E. 9th Street, Austin TX 78701)

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Centennial Celebration & Leadership Awards Gala

The Austin Club (110 E. 9th Street, Austin TX 78701)



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Grab & Go Breakfast / Pick-Up of Legislative Packets

Atrium, 1st Floor

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Legislative Appointments

Texas Capitol (1100 Congress Avenue, Austin TX 78701)

NAIFA-Texas members will meet with Texas Legislators to discuss issues that affect the Insurance and Financial Industry. Meetings are by appointment only. Please see the NAIFA-Texas staff for your specific appointment time(s).



Thank you for attending the

NAIFA-TEXAS CENTENNIAL STATE CONFERENCE

For more information and to view our digital program,
please scan the QR codes below!



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NAIFA-TEXAS PAC

The NAIFA-Texas PAC, other state IFAPACs, and the NAIFAPAC contribute approximately \$2.5 million to federal and state candidates and committees each election cycle. An important aspect of our work in this industry is through PAC. Being able to contribute to those who understand our association's priorities is crucial. Please remember to develop relationships with your legislators and let us know of those connections!

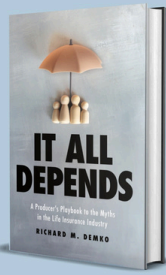


NAIFA-Texas PAC is the backbone of our advocacy efforts in the Texas State Capitol. Through the PAC, we form and maintain relationships with state legislators, ensuring we have a seat at the table when issues arise that affect our members and their business. Our PAC funds go directly to supporting candidates and hosting advocacy events for our members. We go above and beyond to give our members opportunities to have open dialogues with their legislators and ensure their interests are being protected. At the end of the day, NAIFA-Texas PAC carries weight in our industry and fights for our members.



Visit tx.naifa.org/ifapac
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FINDING THE CHAMPION WITHIN

Wendy Boglioli

Former Olympic Swimmer, Coach, Motivational Speaker



Wendy Boglioli brings her riveting Olympic story, professional versatility and captivating insight to audiences and clients across the country. A national long term care spokesperson and healthy aging advocate, Wendy's enthusiasm, knowledge and ease leave audiences thirsty for more. Her message encourages everyone to take a holistic approach to their financial and physical outlook while her riveting personal and Olympic story resonates and persuades.

Wendy is best remembered for her role in the 1976 Olympic Games when she and fellow women swimmers were heavy underdogs to the systemically doped East German team. Earning a bronze medal in the 100M Butterfly, she and her 4x100M American Freestyle Relay teammates took to the blocks one last time in the culminating event. In what proved to be one of the 'greatest swimming upsets' of all time (Swimming World Magazine), Wendy and her teammates defeated their competitors in a David & Goliath showdown, earning Team USA's only gold. ABC footage reveals the astonishment and excitement of the broadcasters - Donna DeVarona and Curt Gowdy - and the jubilation of the crowd cheering. In 2016, NBC and USA Swimming featured Wendy and her relay teammates in a new documentary, *The Last Gold*, narrated by Julianna Margulies (*The Good Wife*). It can be seen on Amazon.

Ever an athlete, Wendy has remained a fitness advocate. A swimmer for life, an enthusiastic stand-up paddler, and OC2 and OC6 paddler, she also competed in track cycling and earned multiple gold medals during the 1995 and 1996 U.S. Master's Track Cycling National Championships. Today, Wendy serves as an Elite Brand Ambassador for Finis, Inc., an innovative swim equipment company.



NAIFA Quality Award

The NAIFA Quality Award provides advisors at any career stage the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to excellence. This includes:

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To view the list of NAIFA-Texas Quality Award Recipients, please visit: tx.naifa.org/awards or Scan the QR code!



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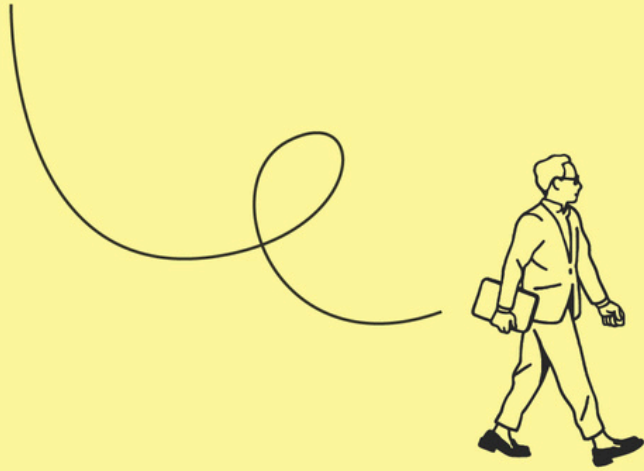
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Executive Director**

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WHAT'S NEXT - WASHINGTON TO WALL STREET

Bob Sellers

TV Anchor, Public Relations Firm Executive, and Author



You may have seen Bob Sellers somewhere before, maybe interviewing Jeff Bezos, Mark Cuban, Barbara Corcoran, or a long list of other business leaders. Or on Capitol Hill, covering political developments from our nation's capital. Or reporting from Baghdad during the Iraq War, learning first-hand why democracy didn't take hold in the Middle East. Or maybe you've read his book about turning failure into success ("Forbes Best Business Mistakes"). Wherever it was, you've probably seen the Emmy-winning journalist's work somewhere, and Bob takes his 25 years of experience on TV and brings it to audiences in person, taking a non-partisan look at what's next in Washington, and on Wall Street, and how it could affect all of us on Main Street.

Emmy-winning journalist Bob Sellers takes a non-partisan look at what's next in Washington. With new leadership in the White House, there are fresh political battles playing out on Capitol Hill that could affect every American – as well as their investments. Bob will reveal what's going on inside the Beltway and how it will play out from Wall Street to Main Street -- with ideas on how to thrive with the inevitable change.

MAKE SIMPLICITY YOUR SUPERPOWER

Richard Dobson, CFP

Author, Keynote Speaker



We live in a complex world, and we work in a complex industry. By simplifying and adding fun to our message we enjoy better connections with clients and outcomes improve!

During his presentation Dobson will share his favorite communications hacks that meet his three criteria; Keep It Simple, Make It Memorable, Have Fun With It!

Richard Dobson, CFP is on a mission to de-complicate client communications in the financial services industry. A frequent industry volunteer and Main Platform speaker – including multiple MDRT meetings in North America and Asia. A 40-year NAIFA member (former Iowa State Board Treasurer) and a 22-year Qualifying member of MDRT, Richard served as President of the MDRT Foundation and is recognized as an Excalibur Knight (\$50,000+) Gifting level. FINRA Series 6, 26, 27, 51, 63, 65 qualified, Richard was also a former FINRA Broker/Dealer Chief Compliance Officer and has been a multi-state Insurance Continuing Education Provider since 1984.

He is the author of two books - “Make Simplicity Your Superpower: Communication Hacks Every Financial Advisor Should Know”, and “The Trusted Professional” - both from Sound Wisdom.

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JOIN OUR PRESENTATION

NAIFA-TEXAS CENTENNIAL STATE CONFERENCE

ECA will be presenting a powerful tool that ethically and mathematically illustrates how to help clients with outdated, underperforming annuities, transition to more competitive products.

Sales Ideas From Sponsors Session

February 10th, 2025 | Omni Austin Hotel Downtown | 3:10 - 4:30 PM



Joe Spillman
 President of ECA Marketing



Augie Isaacson
 Senior Annuity Specialist



Stop by our booth to chat!



YOUNG ADVISOR TEAM (YAT) LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The NAIFA-Texas YAT Leader of the Year Award recognizes an advisor's commitment to NAIFA including service on local, state, and committees as well as participation in the Leadership in Life Institute (LILI); involvement with state and/or federal legislative efforts; participation in external service work such as charities; and an ability to inspire others.

The NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2024 recipient of the NAIFA-Texas YAT Leader of the Year Award, Derek True, DIA, DHP.



Derek True, DIA, DHP

The DI Center, Brand & Operations Manager

Derek is the Brand & Operations Manager for The DI Center, a Brokerage General Agency in Allen, Texas that makes asset protection and income protection easier for producers nationwide.

Derek's title is a fun way to say that he oversees brokerage marketing and underwriting processes with a knack for the competitive landscape. He has presented to audiences throughout the country on disability insurance, operational excellence, and sales.

Derek has been an active NAIFA member since joining The DI Center in 2011, shortly after graduating from Texas Tech University. He is the current NAIFA-Dallas President-Elect and has served on the NAIFA-Texas Membership Value and TLRT Committee since 2021. He is also a member of the Texas Leaders Round Table (TLRT) and the International DI Society (IDIS).

Derek enjoys traveling with his wife Emily and their four children, Owen, Tristan, Reese, and Charlotte. He is active in his local community, leads within his church, and is an avid sports fan.



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TOM CURREY LOCAL LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The NAIFA-Texas Tom Currey Local Leader of the Year Award recognizes an advisor's commitment to NAIFA by their service and leadership at the Local Chapter and/or Affiliate level and their positive impact on the insurance and financial services industry.

In 2024, the NAIFA-Texas Awards Committee and Board of Directors renamed the award after Thomas 'Tom' D Currey, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF. Tom joined NAIFA in 1980 and has been an integral part of the success of our association. He is a member of the NAIFA-Fort Worth Chapter.

Tom led NAIFA-Texas as state President in 1998 – 1999 and played a crucial role in the development of the Leadership in Life Institute (LILI). The first recorded LILI was held in Texas in February 2000 and was led by Tom Currey. Tom went on to serve as NAIFA National President in 2009-2010. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC), Life Underwriting Council Fellow (LUTCF) and a Financial Security Advocate.

The NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2024 recipient of the Tom Currey Local Leader of the Year Award, Mark S. Jones.



Mark S. Jones

Mark S Jones & Assoc., Remington Ins Group, Inc

Mark S. Jones was raised and educated in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. He entered the insurance business, June 1, 1974, with Protective Life while still a student at The University of Texas at Arlington and qualified for MDRT by the end of that year. Within a few years Mark was appointed General Agency Manager of the

Houston office for Protective Life (age 24, the youngest in the company's history). After receiving numerous company and industry awards as an Agency Manager, he returned to personal production and led Protective Life in various sales categories for several years. In addition, he received their highest honor "Mr. Quality Award" and was twice nominated to the Insurance Sales magazine's All-Star Honor Roll.

Mark established his own independent agency in 1982, and later founded Remington Insurance Group, Inc., a marketing group representing several major life companies for independent producers and General Agencies. He served for many years as a Sr. Arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau.

He has been an active member of NAIFA Houston, chairing multiple committees, as well as serving on the Board of Directors and as an Officer. He was the creator and principal author of the very successful LIMRA publication, "Are You In Compliance?", which sold over 100,000 copies and produced a very generous revenue stream back to NAIFA Houston. He continually serves NAIFA Texas in various areas.

Mark is a 48 yr. recipient of NAIFA's National Quality Award and is a consistent Grand Council qualifier for Texas Leaders Round Table membership, as well as a longtime PAC contributor.

Mark is a 48 yr. Qualifying member of the Million Dollar Round Table, mostly Court of the Table or Top of the Table honors. He has served on dozens of MDRT committees and chaired several noteworthy assignments – including Membership, Ethics, Program Development. Twice served on MDRT's Management Council, and is a Past President of the MDRT Foundation, where he's a Royal Order Knight.

NAIFA-TEXAS BRUCE MURRAY TALL TEXAN AWARD PAST HONOREES

2003	Don Ladewig	2012	R. Keith White
2004	Jack M. Morris, LUTCF	2013	Stephen Ehlers, LUTCF
2005	John M. Ruckel, LUTCF	2014	Stephen L. Harris, CLU, ChFC
2006	Alan Carl, RHU, REBC, LUTCF	2015	Edward F. Tate, Jr., CLU, ChFC, LUTCF
2007	H. Dan Smith	2016	Charles Matejowsky, CIC, LUTCF
2008	Martha Hall, RHU	2017	Jack Knight, LUTCF
2009	Doug Aycock, CLU, ChFC	2018	Tallie O. Young, RFC, LUTCF, CLTC
2010	Suzanna Powell, LUTCF	2022	Frank Correa, LUTCF, FSCP
2011	Randy T. Robertson	2023	Mark R. Warren, LUTCF

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BRUCE MURRAY TALL TEXAN AWARD

NAIFA Great Southwest (GSW) historically honored a member for outstanding contributions to the association. This award is named in honor of Bruce Murray, one of NAIFA GSW's most faithful and long-serving members. NAIFA-Texas continues this long-standing tradition by presenting this award in homage to Bruce and NAIFA Great Southwest. The criteria for this award focus on issues that were important to Bruce and involved association members. The considerations focus on PAC involvement, political involvement, and local participation.

The NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2024 Bruce Murray Tall Texan Recipient, Hollie Gandy Donohue, CSA, CLTC.



Bruce Murray

**TALL TEXAN
AWARD**



Hollie Gandy Donohue, CSA, CLTC

Safe Money Solutions, Retirement Income Specialist

Hollie Gandy Donohue has a long history with NAIFA, and NAIFA-Texas. Not really understanding all the layers and nuances of the insurance profession, she followed a recommendation to attend a NAIFA meeting in September 1999. While there, she met noteworthy NAIFA members, Randy Robertson and Joel Williamson, where she met camaraderie and intuitive advice. Hollie joined NAIFA in 2000 and quickly became involved with the NAIFA-Amarillo Area leadership team, availing herself of every opportunity that was presented.

In 2009 Hollie participated in her first Day at the Capitol event and had the opportunity to meet with Representatives John Smithee and Kel Seliger alongside her fellow NAIFA members and Des Taylor, who was the NAIFA-Texas CEO at the time. Hollie was instantly converted into an industry advocate. Since that year, Hollie has attended every NAIFA-Texas State Conference, Day at the Capitol, and every fly-in NAIFA event in Washington D.C.

During her attendance at the 2011 NAIFA-Texas State Conference, Hollie met like-minded NAIFA-Texas member, Russell 'Rusty' E. Donohue. The two hit it off right away and began a long-distance courtship and were married in August of 2013. Rusty, a NAIFA-Texas Past President (1993-1994), was also deeply interested in state politics and advocacy. Married for 10 years, Rusty passed away in 2023.

Hollie has held various positions on the NAIFA-Texas State Chapter Board of Directors and is one of only three women to hold the State President (2018-2019) position. She is also the longest serving President in NAIFA-Texas history. She has led the role of the NAIFA National Independent Advisor Task Force Member, the NAIFA-Texas Membership Chair, and the NAIFA-Texas Non-Dues Revenue Committee Chair during her time with the association. She is also a NAIFA Leadership & Life Institute (LILI) graduate.

Hollie donates to the IFAPAC regularly, committing to yearly increases in her contributions. Hollie is also an Ambassador for The Financial Awareness Association and has participated in many Monthly Awareness campaigns to heighten education and knowledge for all ages. Her involvement has been accentuated through the years as she has grown in the understanding that Advocacy matters to consumers, clients, the industry, and her colleagues.

NAIFA-TEXAS JOHN M. RUCKEL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PAST HONOREES

2002 Charlie Flowers
Oscar Newton
Tyson Payne
E. Kenneth Tooley

2003 C. Dean Davis, JD

2004 Robert A. Ehlers

2005 O. C. Jackson, CLU

2006 John N. Neighbors, CLU, LUTCF

2007 **John M. Ruckel, LUTCF**

2008 Rosalie L. Kuntz, LUTCF
H. Dan Smith, CLU, LUTCF

2009 Jim H. Benjamin, CLU

2010 Thomas D. Currey, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF

2012 Dee K. Carter, CLU, ChFC, CSA

2013 Glen Baecker, CLU
R. Keith White

2014 Ron Mullen, CLU, ChFC, CWC

2015 Alan Carl, RHU, REBC, LUTCF

2017 Mark Warren, LUTCF

2018 Stephen Ehlers, LUTCF

2019 Charles Matejowsky, CIC, LUTCF

2021 Russell Donohue, CLU, ChFC
Douglas Massey, CLU, ChFC, FSS

2022 Joey Ussery, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF

2023 Randy T. Robertson, LUTCF



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JOHN M. RUCKEL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The John M. Ruckel Lifetime Achievement Award is NAIFA-Texas' top-ranking award that recognizes the most prestigious and successful members in our association. The award is named after long-standing NAIFA-Texas member, John M. Ruckel, who began his career in June 1969.

John served as President of the Texas Chapter of National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA-Texas) from 1987 to 1988 and went on to serve as President of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA National) from 1999 to 2000.

John received the NAIFA-Texas Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 for his outstanding commitment and contributions to the organization. The award was aptly named after the outstanding John M. Ruckel in 2024 following a unanimous decision by the NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors.

The John M. Ruckel Lifetime Achievement Award recipients are selected by the NAIFA-Texas Awards Committee after thorough consideration. Recipients of the award must have a minimum of twenty (20) years of continuous membership in NAIFA-Texas, demonstrate significant contributions to NAIFA-Texas, including local and/or state leadership involvement, contribute to the NAIFA-Texas Political Action Committee (PAC), and contribute to the insurance and financial services industry.

The NAIFA-Texas Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2024 John M. Ruckel Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, T. Leslie Littleton, CLU, LUTCF.



T. Leslie Littleton, CLU, LUTCF

NAIFA-Pineywoods of East Texas, Financial Security Advocate

T. Leslie 'Les' Littleton and his family are originally from San Antonio, Texas. Les entered the insurance business in 1978 in Longview, Texas and has resided in Nacogdoches, Texas since 1991.

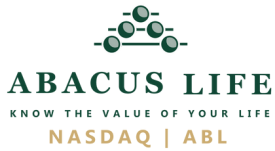
Les quickly became involved with the Texas Chapter of National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA-Texas) and served on several local, state, and national committees since joining in 1980, including serving as the NAIFA-Texas State PAC Committee Chair. He went on to serve as Local Chapter President in Longview from 1989 to 1990, Local Chapter President in Lufkin/Nacogdoches from 1992 to 1993, and the NAIFA-Texas State President from 2003 to 2004.

Les has been a member of the Texas Rangers Foundation since 1994. The Foundation exists to raise funds for the scholarships of those Texas Rangers whose children are going to college in the law enforcement degree area. He was a Board Member of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum from 2009 to 2018.

Les is involved in his community as a member of the First Christian Church, Lions Club, and volunteers for the March of Dimes. Les has been married to his wife Pat for 54 years. They have one son, Tracy, and one grandson, Trenton.

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