FAIA members call for end to AOB abuse

March held in conjunction with FAIA's Capitol Days

More than 125 FAIA member agents joined members of the Consumer Protection Coalition (of which FAIA is a member) to urge lawmakers to protect consumers from rising homeowners rates by passing meaningful assignment of benefits reform legislation.

The march to the Capitol was the highlight of FAIA's Capitol Days, and, writes FAIA Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kyle Ulrich in his latest blog, demonstrates the importance of political involvement by individual agents.
Thanks to those who show up, speak up

FAIA's most important role has always been to serve as a fierce advocate for independent agents, writes FAIA President & CEO Jeff Grady, and we couldn't do it without dedicated agent volunteers. Here (left to right), FAIA Chairman and former lawmaker Doug Wiles; Jeff Grady; David Hart, executive vice president of Government & Political Relations with the Florida Chamber; and Barry Gilway, CEO of Citizens Property Insurance Corp.; talk to the media before Capitol Days attendees met with their district representatives.

See more photos

Survey: strong link between carrier financial performance and agent satisfaction

The first-of-its-kind study conducted by J.D. Power in partnership with IIABA finds property and casualty insurers that most satisfy independent agents have the best overall financial performance and profitability. Yet the survey also reveals insurers receive among the lowest scores from agents for business-to-business relationships in J.D. Power's satisfaction study history.

Read more and weigh in

Hearth Insurance to write homeowners in Florida

Once its certificate of authority is received, Hearth Insurance Group will begin writing HO-3 and dwelling policies across the state, including the tri-county region from its Tampa-based office. Read Dave Newell's blog for details, and stay tuned for FAIA's review of Hearth's appointment agreement.

> AM Best third quarter 2017 Company Financials now available >

EDUCATION
NFIP extended until February 8

What does that mean for you? There are steps agents can take to protect customers should another, potentially longer lasting, lapse in National Flood Insurance Program authorization occur. FAIA's resident insurance nerd David Thompson lays out those steps in the Community.

MEMBER SERVICES

Big I Markets debuts new franchised hotel product

Experts estimate that 1,303 new hotels will be built in the U.S. this year, up 200 from 2017. Fortunately, Big "I" Markets' new franchised hotel product from CBIC, an RLI company, is now available for quoting on Big "I" Markets in all states (even Florida!). FMS Vice President & Managing Director Dave Burt has the details.
Walk for Wishes: support your community and the Trusted Choice brand

Trusted Choice is sponsoring six Make-A-Wish Walks in 2018 from Jacksonville to Miami and places in between. The first one takes place February 3 at Markham Park in Sunrise. Read Julia Freeman’s blog to see how you can promote your agency and demonstrate how the insurance industry gives back. Email Julia to learn how your agency can get involved.

IN MEMORIAM

James T. Harrison, Jr.

It is with great sadness that we share the death of James T. Harrison, Jr. A renowned insurance instructor, he was an assistant professor at FSU’s College of Business, served on the Florida Department of Insurance Test Development, and was known to many in Florida as an instructor and mentor through his work with the National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research. He will be missed by many in the insurance industry.

NEW MEMBERS

AGENCY MEMBERS
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **Evolve MGA**: San Francisco, CA

HEADLINES

MEMBER AGENCY NEWS

- **Brightway Insurance, Inc.** named Billy Wagner as its 2017 Agency Owner of the Year. Awarded Chris Huebener with its 2017 $2 Million Producer Award; Timothy Yarbrough, Justin Thompson, and Erika Broom with its $1 Million Producer Award; and Lydia Register and Tracy Mulloy as Employees of the Year.
- **Zachary Ward, Butler Agency, LLC**: named the James T. Harrison, Jr., CISR Scholarship recipient in December.
- **Brett Janson, Hiles-McLeod Insurance, Inc.**: named the James T. Harrison, Jr., CIC Scholarship recipient in December.

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **AmWins Group, Inc.**: announced COO Scott M. Purviance will succeed M. Steven DeCarlo as CEO.
- **Liberty Mutual**: announced the sale of its life and disability unit, and a realignment of its property/casualty operations.
- **NatGen Premier**: named Chad LaTour as vice president, Emerging Markets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FAIA EVENTS

- April 4, 2018: **FAIA Board Meeting**; The Westin, Ft. Lauderdale.
- June 13–16, 2018: **114th Anniversary Convention and Educational Symposium**; Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando.

LOCAL BOARD EVENTS

Many local boards hold monthly or quarterly meetings. Visit our website for a schedule.

- Feb. 15, 2018: **IIA of Broward County, Networking Event**; Topgolf, Miami Gardens.
- Feb. 15, 2018: **Pinellas Association of Insurance Agents, Skeet Shoot**; Skywat Trap and Skeet Club, St. Petersburg.

YOUNG AGENT EVENTS

June 13, 2018: YAC Golf Tournament benefiting Folds of Honor; Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club, Orlando.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

April 18–20, 2018: IIABA Legislative Conference; Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, D.C.

Trusted Choice sponsors Florida Make-A-Wish Walks

Feb. 3, 2018: Walks for Wishes at Markham Park, Sunrise.
March 14, 2018: Walks for Wishes at Lake Eola Park, Orlando.
April 14, 2018: Walks for Wishes at Zoo Miami, Miami.
April 28, 2018: Walks for Wishes at Water Works Park, Tampa.
May 4, 2028: Walks for Wishes at Metropolitan Park, Jacksonville.