

# THE INDEPENDENT VOICE

May 13, 2025

## Big I Legislative Conference Recap

Earlier this month, Big I NJ President and CEO, Michael Razze, and Big I NJ Government Affairs Representative, Frank Jones, were joined by 14 member agents from NJ in our nation's Capitol to meet with members of our Congressional delegation. Among the topics discussed were tax credits for pass through entities, disaster recovery efforts and the NFIP, and the need for transparency with third party litigation funding. Those in attendance were thrilled to celebrate with L. Scott Stanford, of the Stanford Agency in Tinton Falls, as he received IIABA's Woodworth Memorial Award. The Woodworth is presented by the national association to a single agency member from across the country for their dedication and service to the independent agency system. Scott represents the fourth agent from NJ to receive the award since its inception in 1925. For more information on the conference and Scott's achievements, see the links below.

[View the Event Photos >>](#)

[Scott Stanford Awarded Woodworth Memorial Award >>](#)

[State of the Association >>](#)

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## Acting FEMA Chief is Ousted After Less Than 4 Months

Less than a month before the start of hurricane season, the acting administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been fired. David Richardson is now the new FEMA administrator. [More >>](#)

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## What's Driving the Rise in E&O Claims and What Can Your Agency Do to Prevent One?

A COVID-19 hangover. The hard market. The movement of policies from the admitted market to excess & surplus lines. Whether a single factor or a combination is to blame, one thing is certain: Errors & omissions claims are on the rise, requiring independent insurance agents to be even more vigilant. [More >>](#)

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## Wildfire Legislation Heating Up in the Senate

Momentum is building in the U.S. Senate where several new bipartisan proposals aim to improve forest management, reduce wildfire risks and strengthen disaster resilience. S.1462, the "Fix Our Forests Act of 2025", was introduced in the Senate in April. A similar bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year and passed the chamber with strong bipartisan support. [More >>](#)

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## Big I NJ is Seeking Charity Auction Donations

On July 28th, Big I NJ will host our [signature fundraising](#) event for Make-A-Wish New Jersey. This event will feature a round of golf at the beautiful Battleground Country Club in Manalapan, followed by cocktails, a gift auction, and dinner. Attendees may opt to participate in the full event, or enjoy the evening activities without golfing. We are currently seeking donations for the charity gift auction and are asking members who may be interested in supporting the event to contact [Maria Keegan](#) at 609-

587-4333 to discuss opportunities. Donations may include gift cards, sporting event/concert tickets, time shares, golf foursomes, high-end gift baskets, and more.

### 2025 Member Satisfaction Survey

Later this month, Big I NJ will be sending a survey that will allow you to share feedback on how much you value your membership and what areas you would like to see the association lean into more. It is incredibly important to our future success that you take a few minutes to complete this survey!



### Upcoming Events

- June 3 - Legislative Lunch
- July 1 - Legislative Lunch
- July 23 - Big I Southern New Jersey Golf Outing
- July 28 - Trusted Choice Charity Golf Outing
- August 5 - Legislative Lunch
- August 18 - YAC Golf Outing
- September 2 - Legislative Lunch
- October 7 - Legislative Lunch
- October 26-28 - NJ Agents Conference
- November 11 - Legislative Lunch
- December 2 - Legislative Lunch

For Details, Visit Big I NJ's Events Page.



A member publication.



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