Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation Award Nomination Form

2026 NABIP-TX Outstanding Legislation Industry Award



The basis of NABIP-TX's legislative groundwork was created by Shirley Hutzler in her years of dedicated service to our industry and our association. She became involved in legislative affairs in 1991 while serving as NABIP-TX 1st Vice President. Her legislative involvement has included acting as volunteer liaison to the Texas Legislature and the TDI, serving on panels, testifying before committees and making presentations to NABIP-TX chapters across the state. Shirley accepted the position of NABIP-TX lobbyist in 1996 and served in that capacity until 2002. Shirley has also held many association offices including NABIP President 1990-1991, NABIP-TX President 1992-1993, Region VI Vice President 1993-1995. Her hard work and dedication has also earned her numerous recognitions including the NABIP Shirley Hutzler Award, NABIP-TX Volunteer of the Year, NABIP-TX Most Outstanding Texan, Three NABIP-TX Distinguished Service Awards, NABIP Landmark Award under her NABIP-TX Presidency, NABIP-TX Hollis Roberson Award-1993 and was the first recipient of the NABIP-TX Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation award. When presented with this award her response was what many have heard her say before, "It is incredible to be so recognized and honored for doing something I love so much."

The recipient of this award is selected by the Hutzler award committee which carefully reviews all persons nominated. In making its selection, the committee looks for contributions above and beyond the call of duty, without personal gain. Your recommendations must be supported by an accompanying statement that details the accomplishments of your candidate to include present and former positions, connections with health insurance, biographical information and of utmost importance, the specific accomplishments that entitle your candidate to this prestigious award.

Please Note: only state board members (which includes local presidents) and previous Legislative Excellence Award recipients can submit nominations. Submit your nominations to a local /state board member or past recipient.

Please complete this form and return to the NABIP-TX office by December 1 at 5pm

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2026 Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation Award - Nomination form MUST be received by December 1 at 5p.m.

I nominate: _____ Local Chapter: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Submitted By: _____
Board Position: _____
Phone: _____

Important: Nominations will not be considered unless support materials are included. Send complete form with accompanying date to: Lisa Strug, NABIP-TX Executive Director 312 North Avenue East, Suite 5, Cranford, NJ 07016; 713-645-1490; fax 908-967-5044; Email: admin@nabip-tx.org

Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation Award

Nomination Criteria

1. Anyone who has been an individual NABIP-TX member for two or more years and meets the criteria for this award is eligible. However, since this award is intended for outstanding service over an extended period of time, this will be awarded to a member only once in a lifetime. (Paid lobbyists are not eligible.)

2. To be considered for this award, the individual member must have:
   a) Participated in committees or working groups involving **NABIP-TX** legislation;
   b) Repeated presentations to groups on **Texas** legislative issues;
   c) Actively participated in NABIP-TX Day at the Capitol events;
   d) Obtained state media attention or displayed extensive involvement in promoting NABIP-TX's legislative efforts;
   e) Developed strong grass roots initiatives through involvement and support of **NABIP-TXPAC**, serving as a key legislative contact and promoting our lobbying efforts; and
   f) Performed other outstanding legislative service for the association.

   Consideration may also be given to an individual who is not a member of the association but who is:
   a) A member of the Texas Legislature who has continuously demonstrated support of NABIP-TX initiatives and interests
   b) A staff member of one of the several regulatory agencies that has worked closely with the NABIP-TX Executive Committee, Legislative Council and NABIP-TX members to further the mission of our association

Previous Winners

Shirley Hutzler - 2005 (Inaugural Recipient)
Beth Ashmore – 2007
Stacey Merritt – 2009
Misty Baker – 2010
Steve Browning – 2011
Rusty Rice – 2012
Carolyn Goodwin – 2013
Gary Looney – 2014
Jessica Watts – 2019
Rick Ott – 2021
Mark Bellman – 2022
Angela Theesfeld – 2023
Victoria Trevino – 2024
Audra Sullivan – 2025

The Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation Award committee members include the award recipients, NABIP-TX President, NABIP-TX Legislation Chair, Executive Committee Member over Legislation and Shirley Hutzler.

Award History

The NABIP-TX "Shirley Hutzler Excellence in Legislation" Award recognizes NABIP-TX members who have performed outstanding service and made significant contributions of time and effort in **Texas Legislation** work. One award will be presented at the NABIP-TX Day at the Capitol in 2024 to a member or other qualified recipient who displays an aggressive leadership role by building relationships with **Texas** legislators that directly impact public policy, by actively taking our message to key media outlets, and by developing strong grassroots initiatives. In no instance will more than one award be given in an award year. It is possible that this award may not be given every award year.