

# NCOIL NEWSLETTER



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Rep. Deborah Ferguson DDS AR  
President



Thomas B. Considine  
NCOIL CEO



Rep. Tom Oliverson MD, TX  
Vice President

**From the President's Desk**

*Rep. Deborah Ferguson, DDS (AR) – NCOIL President*

Welcome to my first quarterly newsletter column as NCOIL President.

When I joined the NCOIL Officer ranks last year, I certainly didn't anticipate being NCOIL President just a year later. But with the unfortunate departure of Kevin Cahill from the NY legislature, we had to adjust "on the fly" and I'm really looking forward to another productive year at NCOIL. It's a great honor to serve alongside such a talented team of fellow officers: Vice President Dr. Tom Oliverson, (Rep. TX), Treasurer Pamela Hunter (Asw. NY), Secretary Paul Utke (Sen. MN) and Immediate Past Presidents Matt Lehman (Rep. IN) and Travis Holdman (Sen. IN).

Yes, you read that last name correctly. Sen. Holdman is now back in the NCOIL Officer ranks due to Ken Cooley sadly losing his re-election soon after we departed our New Orleans meeting. Asm. Cooley deserves a tremendous amount of credit for his leadership last year as NCOIL President, and for the way he consistently represented the organization throughout the years. Thanks to Ken's leadership, NCOIL starts 2023 stronger than ever and ready for another great year.

As I begin my term as NCOIL President, I'd like to tell you more about myself and how I got involved in public service and in NCOIL. Prior to being elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, I spent twenty five years working as a dentist and owned my own practice. I also became involved with various causes in my community such as serving as a Guardian Ad Litem for foster children, teaching elementary Sunday School, and working with organizations such as the American Heart Association and the Arkansas Arts Council among others. This involvement in my community along with my desire to and belief that I could help improve Arkansas is what ultimately drew me to run for elected office.

The timing of when I first ran for the legislature really was sparked by the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I knew that enactment of this federal law would mean state legislators had to roll up their collective sleeves as well.

During my time in the Legislature, I have served on the Insurance Committee for eight years and as Co-Chair of the Insurance Marketplace Sub-committee for eight years. I was recently appointed as Co-Chair of the Employee Benefits Division Insurance Sub-committee to implement Medicare Advantage for our retired teachers and state employees. I am also the Vice-Chair of the Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

## From the President's Desk (cont'd)



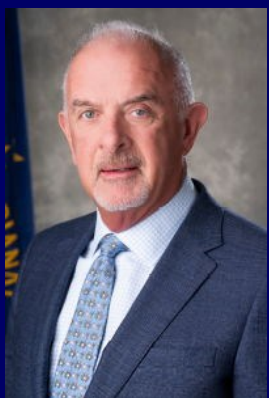
Asw. Pamela Hunter, NY  
Treasurer



Sen. Paul Utke, MN  
Secretary



Rep. Matt Lehman, IN  
Immediate Past President



Sen. Travis Holdman, IN  
Immediate Past President

I attended my first NCOIL Meeting in San Francisco in 2014. I had already been very familiar with health insurance and healthcare related issues from my work as a dentist, but it was at NCOIL that I learned about the intricacies of all different lines of insurance. It was great to be able to discuss the issues we were dealing with in Arkansas with legislator colleagues from all around the country. From that point on, I was hooked!

I was impressed with each subsequent NCOIL Meeting I attended because it provided an opportunity to learn about a wide array of issues facing the insurance marketplace and how other states are finding solutions to improve the quality of insurance for their citizens. Each NCOIL conference has proven to be both productive and efficient and they provide an excellent opportunity to hear various perspectives on timely issues. This focus on policy is why I encourage all legislators serving on their state's insurance committee to get involved in this national forum.

During my tenure as NCOIL President, I will focus on the continued advancement of the organization from both a substantive and legislative membership perspective. NCOIL is at its strongest when there is robust participation from legislators all across the country that come together to share their thoughts and views on insurance public policy. Throughout my time at NCOIL, I've found that its bipartisan makeup really provides more credibility to the organization as a whole. As a state legislator, when you see an NCOIL model law come before you in your legislature, you know that both sides were heard throughout its development and that the NCOIL legislators that voted on the Model heard all perspectives from a wide array of subject matter experts. NCOIL must continue meeting its mission of being a bipartisan organization and I look forward to working to ensure that happens.

Additionally, beyond its bipartisanship, I plan to continue NCOIL's commitment to diversity of talent, thought, and background. When I first came, Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton and I were the only regular women attendees; we could have had women's caucus meetings in a phone booth. I plan to establish an official Women's Caucus to bring even more women to the table. We will also work to further increase the diversity across the board in our own membership to continue NCOIL's path of looking more like America.

The issues facing the insurance marketplace this year will prove to be exciting and complex and NCOIL is committed to remaining on the cutting edge in terms of topics to discuss during its national meetings. Some topics already set for our Spring meeting include: consideration of Rep. Lehman's Insurance Underwriting Transparency Model Act; continued development of Asw. Hunter's Biomarker Testing Insurance Coverage Model Act; the potential impact of *Braidwood Management v. Becerra* on no-cost preventive services; and of course, discussion on how environmental, social and governance (ESG) developments can impact the insurance marketplace.

I am particularly looking forward to having NCOIL actively engage on ESG developments to navigate the potential minefield of the issue. Absent our involvement, this is the type of issue that could all but beg for federal regulation of insurance and I'm proud that NCOIL is taking a leading role in the debate on this topic in 2023.

Like my predecessors, I am committed to ensuring that NCOIL continues to educate public policymakers and interested parties and produce sound public policy in the form of model laws for states to consider and adjust accordingly to meet their needs.

I look forward to your participation and to seeing you at our Spring Meeting in San Diego. Please do not hesitate to share your ideas or thoughts with me in March and throughout the year.

*Deborah*

## Future NCOIL Meetings:

Spring 2023  
March 9 –12  
San Diego, CA  
The Westin San Diego  
Gas Lamp Quarter

Summer 2023  
July 19 –22  
Minneapolis, MN  
Marriot Minneapolis  
City Center

Annual 2023  
November 15 –18  
Columbus, OH  
Renaissance Columbus  
Downtown Hotel

Spring 2024  
April 11-14  
Nashville, TN  
Sheraton Grand  
Nashville Downtown

Summer 2024  
July 17-20  
Costa Mesa, CA  
Westin South Coast  
Plaza

Annual 2024  
November 21-24  
San Antonio, TX  
The Westin Riverwalk

## NCOIL President Announces 2023 Committee Leadership

NCOIL President Deborah Ferguson DDS, state Representative from Arkansas announced the lineup of NCOIL Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023.

“I am looking forward to working with such an outstanding group of bipartisan legislative leaders from all across the country who are all committed to advancing NCOIL’s national reach and influence in creating sound insurance public policy,” said Ferguson. “Each legislator has carved out their role and importance to NCOIL as they all have significant knowledge and expertise in the insurance and financial services arenas that will serve them well in leading their committees.”

The NCOIL Chairs and Vice Chairs are:

### **Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws:**

Chair: Sen. Walter Michel, MS  
Vice Chair: Rep. Kevin Coleman, MI

### **Audit Committee:**

Chair: Rep. Tom Oliverson, TX  
Vice Chair: Sen. Neil Breslin, NY

### **Budget Committee:**

Chair: Asw. Pam Hunter, NY  
Vice Chair: Sen. Travis Holdman, IN

### **Financial Services & Multi-Lines Issues:**

Chair: Rep. Forrest Bennett, OK  
Vice Chair: Rep. Tammy Nuccio, CT

### **Health Insurance & Long-Term Care Issues:**

Chair: Del. Steve Westfall, WV  
Vice Chair: Rep. Rachel Roberts, KY

### **Nominating Committee:**

Co-Chairs: Sen. Travis Holdman, IN  
Rep. Matt Lehman, IN

### **Joint State-Federal Relations & International Insurance Issues:**

Chair: Rep. Jim Dunnigan, UT  
Vice Chair: Rep. Brenda Carter, MI

### **Life Insurance & Financial Planning:**

Chair: Rep. Carl Anderson, SC  
Vice Chair: Sen. Mary Felzkowski, WI

### **NCOIL-NAIC Dialogue:**

Co-Chairs: Rep. Deborah Ferguson, AR  
Rep. Tom Oliverson, TX

### **Property & Casualty Insurance:**

Chair: Rep. Edmond Jordan, LA  
Vice Chair: Sen. Vickie Sawyer, NC

### **Workers’ Compensation Insurance:**

Chair: Sen. Bob Hackett, OH  
Vice Chair: Rep. Hank Zuber, MS

### **Chairman at Large:**

Sen. Jerry Klein, ND

NCOIL CEO, Commissioner Tom Considine said, “In 2023, NCOIL will continue to work tirelessly to advance model legislation that protects consumers and preserves the proven state-based system of insurance regulation. It is important to remember that the strongest consumer protection is a solvent company at the time of a claim, so legislators must always keep insurer solvency in mind.”

“This group of chairs and vice-chairs that Rep. Ferguson has selected reflects NCOIL’s commitment to these goals and will certainly contribute to the positive growth and momentum NCOIL has experienced the past several years,” Considine concluded.

## Future NCOIL Meetings:

Spring 2025  
April 24-27  
Charleston, SC  
Francis Marion Hotel

Summer 2025  
July 16-19  
Chicago, IL  
Renaissance Chicago  
Downtown Hotel

Annual 2025  
November 10-15  
Atlanta, GA  
The Whitley Hotel

Spring 2026  
TBD

Summer 2026  
July 15-18  
Boston, MA  
Westin Copley Place

Annual 2026  
TBD

## REGISTRATION FOR NCOIL SPRING MEETING IS OPEN

Registration for the 2023 NCOIL Spring Meeting at the Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter in San Diego, CA from March 9th—12th is open.



*See the meeting schedule on page 6 or view at the NCOIL website [here](#)*

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL!!!**

*The hotel block closes on **February 14th***

**Legislators book here:**



**General Participants book here:**



**Reminder that Contributing States are eligible for two legislator stipends per National Meeting to help underwrite the cost of participating.  
Click below for more information**

**Please reach out to Pat Gilbert at [pgilbert@ncoil.org](mailto:pgilbert@ncoil.org) with any questions**

## LEGISLATOR STIPENDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTING STATES

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# NCOIL One on One

NCOIL One on One Interview with Mississippi Senator Walter Michel is out now, click on the link [here](#) to check it out!

If you haven't had a chance to watch interviews with IN Rep. Matt Lehman, NY Asw. Pam Hunter, OH Sen. Bob Hackett, AR Rep. Deborah Ferguson DDS, ND Sen. Jerry Klein, LA Rep. Edmond Jordan, CA Asm. Ken Cooley, TX Rep. Tom Oliverson MD, NV Asw. Maggie Carlton, MN Sen. Paul Utke, MI Rep. Brenda Carter, WV Del. Steve Westfall, SC Rep. Carl Anderson, NC Sen. Vickie Sawyer, IN Sen. Travis Holdman, OK Rep. Forrest Bennett, and CT Rep. Tammy Nuccio please visit our YouTube channel [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who has participated so far!



## Don't Miss the NCOIL YouTube Channel: Subscribe Today

Weren't able to attend our past meetings? Good news— you can visit our YouTube channel for recordings of past meetings. Prior national meeting sessions and interim committee meetings are posted on our YouTube channel now.

Visit the link below to subscribe and keep up to date on all things NCOIL!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe09Z77z4q6HG1kv3fDG7Bq>



**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO**

## 2023 NCOIL Spring Meeting Schedule

### THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH

IEC Board Meeting	5:00 PM	-	5:45 PM
Welcome Reception	6:00 PM	-	7:00 PM

### FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

Welcome Breakfast	8:00 AM	-	9:30 AM
Networking Break	9:30 AM	-	9:45 AM
Joint State-Federal Relations & International Insurance Issues Committee	9:45 AM	-	11:15 AM
Workers' Compensation Insurance Committee	11:15 AM	-	12:30 PM
The Institutes Griffith Foundation Legislator Luncheon	12:30 PM	-	1:30 PM
NCOIL-NAIC Dialogue	1:30 PM	-	2:45 PM
General Session	2:45 PM	-	4:45 PM
Networking Break	4:45 PM	-	5:00 PM
Life Insurance & Financial Planning Committee	5:00 PM	-	6:15 PM
CIP Member & Sponsor Reception	6:30 PM	-	7:30 PM

### SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

Property & Casualty Insurance Committee	9:00 AM	-	10:30 AM
Networking Break	10:30 AM	-	10:45 AM
General Session	10:45 AM	-	12:00 PM
Luncheon with Keynote Address	12:00 PM	-	1:30 PM
Financial Services & Multi-Lines Issues Committee	1:30 PM	-	3:00 PM

### SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

Health Insurance & Long Term Care Issues Committee	9:00 AM	-	10:45 AM
Executive Committee	10:45 AM	-	11:15 AM

