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Asm. Ken Cooley, CA  
President



Thomas B. Considine  
NCOIL CEO



Asm. Kevin Cahill, NY  
Vice President

## From The President's Desk

### Asm. Ken Cooley (CA), NCOIL President

Welcome to my first quarterly newsletter column as NCOIL President.

No conversation on the strengths of NCOIL in 2022 is possible unless it begins with a loud and grateful shout-out to my predecessor, Indiana Majority Leader Matt Lehman.

Thank you, Matt, for your steady, guiding hand across an unprecedented two terms as NCOIL President. Thanks to Matt's leadership, NCOIL starts 2022 stronger than ever. It is a great honor, Matt, to receive the baton from you and take over the reins and lead the organization onto its next chapter. It is also a great honor to serve alongside our outstanding team of fellow 2022 Officers: Vice President Kevin Cahill (Asm., NY), Treasurer Dr. Tom Oliverson (Rep. TX), Secretary Dr. Deborah Ferguson (Rep. AR) and Immediate Past Presidents Matt Lehman and Jason Rapert (Sen. AR).

To launch my term as NCOIL President, this column offers a chance to shed some light on my interest in all things governance. And to start that narrative, I have to admit that a budding interest in government stirred me, at age 8, to write President John F. Kennedy c/o the White House. Writing a US President at age 8 is serious business; I used my full name and still have the Kennedy White House reply - Mercury spacecraft stamp on its cover - addressed to Kenneth William Cooley. More precocious geekiness followed as at 11 and 17 I arranged to meet and learn more about government from public officials. After getting my degree in Political Science from U.C. Berkeley, I began working in the California State Assembly.

From 1977 to 1985, I ran the Capitol office of Assemblymember (and independent insurance agent) Louis J. Papan who was a very active NCOIL member. From 1985 to 1988, after passing the California Bar Exam (McGeorge School of law, 1984) I was legal counsel to California's Title Insurers. That role ended in 1988 when the State Assembly tapped me as its Chief Counsel for the Standing Committee on Finance and Insurance. During 1989 and 1990, I attended NCOIL Meetings with my Chair and other Members in Atlanta and D.C. So I have known of NCOIL and its effectiveness across my 45-year career in insurance law and legislation. I learned early how important and impactful NCOIL was for legislators, and my love of the organization has only grown since then.

Following that, I served 18 years as counsel to State Farm, helped incorporate a city (Rancho Cordova), serving two terms as Mayor, and was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012. During that initial election process, I always knew that if I won, I would look to renew California's ties to NCOIL. In fact, upon my successful election, when offered the traditional "get to know you" sit-down talk with the Speaker, on my short list of asks was the request that



Rep. Tom Oliverson MD, TX  
Treasurer



Rep. Deborah Ferguson, DDS,  
AR  
Secretary



Rep. Matt Lehman, IN  
Immediate Past President



Sen. Jason Rapert, AR  
Immediate Past President

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

California – the nation's biggest insurance market – return to being a dues-paying Contributing State of NCOIL. Fast forward to 2022, and I'm proud to say that California has remained a Contributing State and I'm honored to serve as NCOIL President.

My depth of legislative background has brought me the leadership assignments of Chair of both the Assembly Committee on Rules and also of the Joint Committee on Rules of the Senate and Assembly. Of course I am in my 10<sup>th</sup> year as an active Member of my Insurance committee and serve also on committees dealing with issues ranging from civic engagement, disaster response and preparedness, and public employees and retirement.

Being active in NCOIL persuaded me long ago that NCOIL's conversation format, by allowing state legislators to get informed on emerging issues by hearing both public experts and the insights that lawmakers from around the United States can contribute always has strengthened me for debates back home. Across my entire career, I have seen the work of NCOIL in producing stronger and more informed insurance policy and am thrilled to be a part of that history.

I've often said there is a "secret sauce" here at NCOIL because it is an organization comprised of a bipartisan group of legislators. When you come to NCOIL, you come to a place to exchange ideas and learn from your colleagues from around the country as well as from industry and consumer representatives. We lawmakers are able to hear issues explained, ask questions, and then apply the knowledge of our respective state to craft the best possible legislation for our constituents. It is not a responsibility we take lightly, as we have a unique ownership of policy in that we are the small group of individuals charged with making the law. When lawmakers leave NCOIL meetings, they are able to walk into their legislatures as though they are ten feet tall on insurance matters since they've heard from experts with differing perspectives on important insurance issues.

Watching NCOIL grow from my first time participating in the 1980s to seeing the position it is in now in 2022 has been remarkable. I am proud to see we had our highest attendance in NCOIL history at our recent Annual Meeting in Scottsdale. Additionally, in 2021, NCOIL saw participation from 129 legislators across 41 states at our national meetings - a turnout that underscores both how truly national NCOIL is, and, now more than ever, the value of participating in this organization with its national reach. It is a wonderful time to assume the office of NCOIL President, and I look forward to building on that momentum and continuing to boost participation at our meetings.

During my tenure as NCOIL President, I will focus on the continued growth of the organization as we navigate these unprecedented times. I will also work to promote the power of our office to exercise our sound discretion via oversight to make sure the laws of our respective states remain current and fulfilling their intended purpose. And as an organization that has historically thrived on in-person engagement, I will be determined to keep business moving despite the continued impact COVID-19 has placed on everyday life. The issues facing the insurance marketplace in the coming year will surely prove to be exciting and complex, and keeping NCOIL on the right track is very important to my fellow Officers and me.

Like my predecessors, I am committed to ensuring that we continue to produce sound public policy in the form of model laws for states to consider and adjust accordingly to meet their needs. 2022 promises to be a very busy year in terms of the number of model laws set for development and adoption and I am excited to see them before legislatures across the country.

I look forward to your continued participation and hope to see you at our Spring Meeting in Las Vegas as we all continue to work towards ensuring that NCOIL remains the nation's premier legislator-led insurance public policy organization.

Onward and Upward,

*Ken*

## Future NCOIL Meetings:

Spring 2022  
March 3—6  
Las Vegas, NV  
Harrah's

Summer 2022  
July 13—16  
Jersey City, NJ  
Hyatt Regency

Annual 2022  
November 16—19  
New Orleans, LA  
Sheraton New Orleans  
Hotel

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

Summer 2023  
July 19 –23  
Minneapolis, MN  
Marriot Minneapolis  
City Center

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

## NCOIL Highlights February as Insurance Careers Month

Manasquan, NJ – The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), the nation's premier legislator-led insurance public policy organization, joins the Insurance Careers Movement (ICM) in highlighting February as the sixth annual Insurance Careers Month. The ICM includes more than 1,000 insurance carriers, agents, trade associations, and industry partners working to engage the next generation for careers in insurance.

"It's important that younger generations are aware of all the opportunities that a career in insurance can offer," said CA Assemblyman Ken Cooley, NCOIL President. "Prior to serving in the California Assembly, at various times in my California legislative staff career, I ran both the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee and also the State Senate Insurance Committee. As a lawyer, I also served 18 years as counsel to State Farm Insurance and appeared on its behalf in state capitols around the US. I learned so much in all these roles and that knowledge has really helped me be a more effective legislator. It is great that the ICM works to inspire young professionals to pursue a career in insurance"

"An essential moment in my career was when I left private practice to accept a position at MetLife," said NCOIL CEO, Commissioner Tom Considine. "I ended up staying at MetLife for 18 years, only leaving to become the Banking and Insurance Commissioner of New Jersey. I would greatly encourage anyone, especially the next generation, to consider a career in the insurance industry, as there are many different and fulfilling paths such a career may take you on."

SC Rep. Carl Anderson, Vice Chair of the NCOIL Articles/Bylaws Committee said, "As an insurance agent, I am happy to acknowledge February as Insurance Careers Month, which also coincides with Black History Month. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of Black Americans in leadership and other levels of employment within the insurance industry. Encouraging more Black Americans to pursue a career in insurance will lead to a more diverse and inclusive insurance industry. The insurance industry has provided me with a rewarding career, and I look forward to seeing younger generations take advantage of the opportunities the industry has to offer."

## NCOIL Congratulates Bob Hunter on His Retirement

Manasquan, NJ – The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), the nation's premier legislator-led insurance public policy organization, congratulates J. Robert "Bob" Hunter on his retirement after spending 27 years as the Director of Insurance at the Consumer Federation of America (CFA).

"I have known Bob 29 years. While we have certainly often disagreed on matters, I have always respected his commitment, his intellect, and his good will. We at NCOIL commend Bob on a tremendous and enduring career," said NCOIL CEO, Commissioner Tom Considine. "Bob spent his career passionately advocating for insurance industry consumers and his work has had an immense impact on the industry as a whole."

Prior to his role at the CFA, Hunter spent ten years as an actuary before taking on the role of Chief Actuary in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He served under Presidents Ford and Carter, where he received the Award for Excellent Service from the Secretary of HUD. Hunter was later appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve as Texas Insurance Commissioner.

In 1980, Hunter founded the National Insurance Consumer Organization (NICO) where he then served as president for 13 years before accepting his position at the CFA. NICO works to defend consumer interests and monitor the insurance industry. Throughout his career, Hunter has earned a reputation for being an unrelenting consumer advocate and industry reformer.

NCOIL President, CA Asm. Ken Cooley said, "Congratulations to Bob on a wonderful and meaningful career. His focus on fair pricing and other insurance consumer protections have greatly improved the industry, and we at NCOIL wish him all the best in retirement."

# NCOIL One on One

NCOIL One on One Interview with Nevada Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton is out now, click on the link [here](#) to check it out!

If you haven't had a chance to watch previous interviews with IN Representative Matt Lehman, NY Assemblywoman Pam Hunter, OH Sen. Bob Hackett, AR Rep. Deborah Ferguson, DDS, ND Sen. Jerry Klein, LA Rep. Edmond Jordan, CA Asm. Ken Cooley, and TX Rep. Tom Oliverson, MD please visit our YouTube channel [here](#).



Thank you to everyone who has participated so far!

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## 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>

## THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE 2022 NCOIL SPRING MEETING AT HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS!

2022 NCOIL Spring Meeting Host Hotel, Harrah's Las Vegas, Has Recently Completed \$250 Million Renovation — Click [Here](#) to Learn More



*For registration information please click [here](#)*

*See the meeting schedule on page 6 or view at the NCOIL website along with the 30-day materials [here](#)*

*For hotel information click [here](#)*

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**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 call the NCOIL office at 732-201-4133 with any questions.**

**LEGISLATOR STIPENDS NOW AVAILABLE  
FOR CONTRIBUTING STATES**

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**NCOIL 2022 SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE****THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

|                   |         |   |         |
|-------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Welcome Reception | 6:00 PM | - | 7:00 PM |
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**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

|                   |         |   |         |
|-------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Welcome Breakfast | 8:15 AM | - | 9:45 AM |
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| Networking Break | 9:45 AM | - | 10:00 AM |
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| Joint State-Federal Relations and International Insurance Issues Committee | 10:00 AM | - | 11:15 AM |
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| Workers Compensation Insurance Committee | 11:15 AM | - | 12:30 PM |
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| The Institutes Griffith Foundation Legislator Luncheon | 12:30 PM | - | 1:30 PM |
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| NCOIL-NAIC Dialogue | 1:30 PM | - | 2:45 PM |
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| General Session | 2:45 PM | - | 4:15 PM |
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| Networking Break | 4:15 PM | - | 4:30 PM |
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| Life Insurance & Financial Planning Committee | 4:30 PM | - | 5:45 PM |
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| IEC Board Meeting | 5:45 PM | - | 6:30 PM |
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| CIP Member & Sponsor Reception | 6:15 PM | - | 7:15 PM |
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**SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

|   |         |   |          |
|---|---------|---|----------|
| Property & Casualty Insurance Committee | 9:00 AM | - | 10:30 AM |
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| Networking Break | 10:30 AM | - | 10:45 AM |
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| General Session | 10:45 AM | - | 12:00 PM |
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| Luncheon with Keynote Address | 12:00 PM | - | 1:30 PM |
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| Financial Services and Multi-Lines Issues Committee | 1:30 PM | - | 3:00 PM |
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**SUNDAY, MARCH 6**

|  |         |   |          |
|--|---------|---|----------|
| Health Insurance and Long Term Care Issues Committee | 9:00 AM | - | 10:30 AM |
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| Executive Committee | 10:30 AM | - | 11:00 AM |
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