



Annual IIAN Awards Presented October 26

Outgoing IIAN president **Mike Jones, CIC**, presented IIAN's annual agent and company awards at the Big "I" Awards Dinner on October 26 in Kearney.



Member agents honored were: **Distinguished Service Award – Steve Mason**, Lincoln, for over 30 years of dedicated service to IIAN and its members as president and long-term Board member of IIAN's for-profit subsidiary, representing IIAN members in workers' compensation issues with NCCI and the Nebraska WC Plan, researching workers' compensation laws nationwide, and assisting with IIAN's annual convention over the years; **Committee Chairperson of the Year – Rob Schmitt, CIC**, Omaha – for his leadership as chairman of IIAN's Trusted Choice® Task Force, revitalizing IIAN's advertising and public relations efforts to benefit IIAN member agencies; and **Young Agent of the Year – Elliott Bassett, AIP**, Omaha, for his involvement on IIAN's Professional Development and New Talent task forces, and serving on both the IIA of Omaha and IIAN Boards.



Member company representatives honored were: **Company Representative of the Year – Laura Hays, CIC**, Liberty Mutual, in recognition of exemplary service to member agents and active participation on IIAN's Trusted Choice® Task Force; and **Five Star Company of the Year – Continental Western Group**, accepted by **Amy Argo**, Regional Vice President, along with **Staci Deger**, Nebraska Territory Manager. Both company awards were determined by nominations from IIAN members.



Christensen Insurance Agency, St. Paul, was recognized as **"Trusted Choice® Agency of the Year"**, in recognition of the agency's use of the national consumer brand in all of its customer communications, accepted by **Jim Christensen**, **Vince Christensen**, and **Machell Naylor** (still in their Halloween contest costumes).



John Deardorff, along with **Elliott Bassett** and **Lori Ruzicka**, all of Omaha, received special citations from outgoing IIAN president **Mike Jones**, for leading two new IIAN initiatives - the Legislative Advisory Council and New Talent Task Force.



President Jones also recognized **John Deardorff**, far right, IIAN PAC Chairman **Vince Christensen**, and IIAN Director of Operations **Nancy Robeson** for being recognized by IIABA for National awards in 2016, and **Bob Hoppe**, far left, who was appointed to the National InsurPac Board of Trustees this year.