

IIAN ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2019

CANDIDATE PROFILES

IIAN's Nominating Committee has nominated the following members for office. Elections will be held Thursday, October 10, 2019, during the Annual Member meeting.

OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT: Todd Anderson

Todd Anderson Insurance Agency - York

IIAN Offices Held: Current Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer 2018

IIAN Board Service: 2013 – Present NASC Board Service: 2018-19

IIAN Committee Service: Legislative, Farm & Small Agents, Crop Insurance Task Force (Current Chairman), Finance (Current Chairman), Legislative Advisory Council - Ambassador, Dues Task Force

National Committee Service: IIABA Crop Insurance Task Force, 2011-Present

IIAN Awards: Distinguished Service 2015

Todd established Todd Anderson Insurance Agency in 2016, specializing in crop insurance solutions. He began his insurance career with Hartford Crop Insurance in 1993. Starting in 1997, he worked for Aon Risk Services as Ag Risk Manager, then moved to Cornerstone Insurance Group, where he was Crop Insurance Manager from 2000-2016. Todd has represented IIAN members at IIABA Legislative Conferences from 2012-2019, meeting each year with Risk Management Agency staff regarding crop insurance issues.

He has been involved in Sertoma, and was awarded “Sertoman of the Year” in 2003. He is also a past president of Habitat for Humanity. Todd has four daughters – Samantha, Melissa, Lindsay, and Emily, along with three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Todd says: “(I want) to help the independent agents in Nebraska find answers to questions pertaining to how to maintain and grow their agencies. Whether that is on education issues, legislative issues or staffing issues, I think IIAN can play an important role in answering those questions.”



VICE PRESIDENT: Peggy McDonald, CIC

Gary Thompson Agency, Inc. - Trenton

IIAN Offices Held: Current Secretary-Treasurer

IIAN Board Service: 2015-Present

IIAN Committee Service: Legislative, Farm & Small Agents, Finance, Annual Convention (Chairman 2016), Legislative Advisory Council - Ambassador

Peggy is manager and account executive for Gary Thompson Agency in Trenton. She started her career in 1981 as producer and manager for Stratton Insurance Agency/Golden Plains Agency, Inc., and then served with AMFirst Insurance Services from 1998 – 2017, then the Pinnacle Agency until 2018. She attended the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln from 1977-1979, and continued her education at McCook Community College. She earned the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) professional designation in 1995. Peggy has received various awards during her career, including Farmers Mutual of Nebraska Agent of the Year (2011). She serves as Pastor Parish president for United Methodist Churches, and while serving as chairman of the Stratton Community Foundation, led a matching grant program which raised \$200,000 for community development. Peggy is an active grassroots volunteer for election of Nebraska state senator for District 44. She was also one of 30 statewide chosen to participate in the Nebraska LEAD Program, an Agricultural/Business two-year fellowship. Peggy also serves as chairman of the Village of Stratton Board.

Peggy says: “I’m at a time when I can fully dedicate my efforts, assuring our industry remains not only viable, but appealing to those choosing this as their profession. I strive to be pro-active on legislation and support our IIAN Legislative Advisory Council efforts . . . for the success of independent insurance agents in the future. I also believe that recruiting new IIAN members will sustain the association.”



SECRETARY/TREASURER: Vincent Christensen,
Christensen Insurance Agency – St. Paul

IIAN Board Service: 2016-Present

**IIAN Committee Service: Legislative – InsurPac State Chairman,
Legislative Advisory Council Ambassador**

**IIAN Awards: Young Agent of the Year 2015,
Innovative Leadership Program Graduate 2015**

IIABA Awards: InsurPac Young Agent of the Year 2015

Vincent has been an agent for Christensen Insurance for eight years, and became co-owner in 2016. He is politically active in Nebraska, and has represented IIAN members at IIABA Legislative Conferences from 2015 - 2019, and also completed IIAN’s “Innovative Leadership” program in 2016. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 2011. Vincent’s community activities include serving as St. Paul’s Chamber president in 2016 and board member in 2015. He is also a board member at St. Paul United Methodist Church, president for the Central Nebraska Ducks Unlimited Chapter, and vice president of St. Paul Economic Development.

Vince says: “Regardless of the industry you work in it is important to serve and advocate for that industry. By promoting our Independent Agency system, we get the opportunity to promote the work we do and help shape laws that impact our business. I feel that IIAN provides so many free tools and resources for its members that may go unnoticed – I would like to see more of our members using these resources to maximize their membership benefits. I believe there are tools for large, small, new, or well established Big “I” member agencies. Currently serving on the IIAN board and as our InsurPac chairman over the past four years has given me an understanding of the association’s goals and objectives. With my experience as an agency owner, producer, CSR, and industry mentor over the last eight years, I believe I can listen to multiple ideas and come to a solution that works for all involved”

IIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Three Open Positions



Jonathan Damkroger

First State Insurance Agency, LLC – Lincoln

IIAN Participation: Nextgen (Young Agent) Events, Annual Conventions

Jon is Chief Operating Officer for First State Insurance, based in Lincoln, for the agency's five Nebraska locations. He started his insurance sales career with American Family Insurance, moving to First State Agency as a producer for three years, before being promoted to COO. He also serves as an Advisory Board member for First State Bank Nebraska.

Jon is a 2011 graduate of University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with a degree in Business Administration. While at UNL he was a Football Student-Athlete, and Academic All Big-10. He is active in several community charitable organizations, including TeamJack, The Gathering Place, Shriners Hospital, Husker Hoops, and Food Bank of Lincoln.

Jon says: "I'm passionate about the independent agency system and want to see it grow in consumer market share. In being an advocate for the Big "I", more independent agencies can reach consumers to provide tailored insurance solutions, with education and support. I'm experienced in operating both captive and independent agencies . . . and have facilitated mergers, acquisitions, and operational design from traditional agency platforms to insurtech ventures. I'm eager to leverage this experience to help traditional and innovative initiatives."



J. Derek Wright, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. – Omaha

IIAN Board Service: 2018 - Present

IIAN Committee Service: New Talent Task Force, Member Engagement Task Force, Legislative Advisory Council - Ambassador

Derek joined Arthur J. Gallagher in 2012, serving as Area Vice President, then President, starting in 2014. Previously, he was partner and producer for Northern Insurance Group, GCG Financial, and CUNA Mutual Group. Derek was a Gallagher President's Council Qualifier in 2012, 2013, and 2014. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1997 from the University of

Illinois. Derek was a member of the Big "I" of Illinois starting in 2003, and served on its Legislative Committee from 2012 to 2014. His past community activities include: serving as president for the Will County HR Association from 2007-2011; chairing Diplomats Committee, Will County Center for Economic Development from 2006-2009; and being a founding member and treasurer for the Rotary Club of Shorewood, IL from 2004-2013.

Derek says: "I believe strongly in the independent agency system and look forward to helping it grow and prosper here in Nebraska. It's also important that we continue to grow our membership ranks, including the active recruitment of new, young talent to the industry."



Sarah Zimmer

Jones Group - Ansley

IIAN Committee Service: Farm & Small Agents, Young Agents/Nextgen, Legislative Advisory Council - Ambassador

Sarah has been a producer for Jones Group since 2017, after serving as vice president and producer for The Insurance Center for three years. She is graduate of University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with a degree in Animal Science.

Sara was chosen to represent IIAN at the National Big “I” Young Agents Leadership Institute in 2017, and was awarded the Spring Conference Young Agent scholarship this year by IIAN’s Farm & Small Agents Committee. Sarah volunteers for local community functions, is a youth group teacher for her church, and serves on the Village of Mason City board.

Sarah says: “I want to help support the goals and future work of IIAN and help involve more agents across the state. As a young agent I have been involved from the beginning steps of attending my first conference, to helping make decisions on the Spring Conference – I can relate to new IIAN members and young agents.”