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Big I Illinois Presents Prestigious Cartwright Award to Bennie Jones

Springfield, IL. (October 2024) – Big I Illinois presented the prestigious Charles M. Cartwright Award to Bennie Jones, President of Risk Management Solutions of America, during the association’s annual convention in Peoria, IL last week. Jones was presented with the award in recognition of his role as a longtime industry and association leader.

Named for Charles Cartwright, editor of the *National Underwriter* for more than 50 years and champion of associations and the insurance industry, the award recipient is nominated by the past three recipients and the award is presented at discretion of the Big I Illinois Executive committee to the person who has performed the most meritorious service to the insurance industry in Illinois. The award is only given in those years when the committee feels there is a deserving recipient. Jones becomes the 13th honoree in the award’s 80-year history who has never served as President of the association.

Jones has more than 40 years of experience in the industry and has served as a volunteer for the Big I Illinois in numerous capacities over the last ten years, including serving on committees, as a member of the Board of Directors, and as Secretary-Treasurer. He played a valuable role in developing and supporting the Chicagoland Big I chapter and has been actively involved in the Chicago Chapter of the National African American Insurance Association (NAAIA). Jones has been a champion for educating youth on careers in insurance and has modeled mentorship as a path to success.

On a national level, Jones served as Chair of the Big I Diversity council, working with carriers, multicultural industry groups, state associations and other Big I committees to create an awareness of the opportunities and benefits available by embracing diversity to ensure that the independent agency system can survive and flourish. He has previously been recognized by NAAIA and Insurance Business Magazine for his contributions to the industry.

Big I Illinois is an association representing Trusted Choice® independent insurance agents throughout the state. Big I Illinois membership is comprised of 1,000 insurance agencies representing 10,000 licensed independent agents engaged in all facets of the insurance industry, including property, casualty, life, and health. Its members offer customers a choice of policies from a variety of insurance companies. In addition to serving the professional needs of members, Big I Illinois works for the betterment of the insurance industry through legislative and consumer awareness programs. For more information, visit www.ilbigi.org.

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