

ARKANSAS INSURANCE
HALL OF FAME
— ★ ★ ★ —

CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTEE

Dennis Young

★ ★ ★



HOMETOWN

Texarkana, Arkansas

BIG I ARKANSAS

Former State President

CAREER

40+ years as an Independent Insurance Agent

PUBLIC SERVICE

Arkansas House, 1993–1999

— A TEXARKANA LIFE

With the exception of five years at the UofA in Fayetteville, Dennis Young has lived in his hometown of Texarkana, Arkansas, since his birth in 1945. He enjoyed a wonderful childhood filled with many great memories of family activities and friendships. As a senior in high school, he was named “Most Active Boy,” a title that has fit him well throughout the years. While in Fayetteville, Dennis served as President of the Sigma Pi Fraternity.

In the 9th grade, he started making eyes at his future wife, Junie, a 7th grader. She finally gave in to his persistence, and they were married after her graduation from the UofA in 1969. Their marriage has been blessed with two sons and their families, including four grandsons and one granddaughter. Both sons worked in the insurance agency during their summer vacations, but both tired of making inspections and picking up accident reports and have found successful careers elsewhere!

— INTO THE INSURANCE BUSINESS

Initially, Dennis thought he wanted to be a banker, as he had worked summers and after college graduation for what is now Regions Bank in Texarkana. As good fortune would have it, however, he was asked to join a newly formed insurance agency made up primarily of good friends who were all in the Texarkana Jaycees together. His first response was, “No, everybody and his dog sells insurance. Why should I?” After realizing that without family ownership in the bank his future was probably financially limited, Dennis decided to give the insurance business an attempt. That turned out to be a great decision, and it led to a successful career of over 40 years as an Independent Insurance Agent.

Following eight years as the Office Manager with Commercial Insurance Agency, Dennis struck out on his own, which proved to be another great decision. He had already become involved with the Arkansas Independent Insurance Agents Association, but became even more so after becoming an agency owner. He actively sought advice from other agents throughout the state, and those connections helped

him contract with some great insurance companies. After several years of being the lone producer, the agency had the great fortune to add Terry Youngblood, who later became his partner and eventually the sole owner of the agency.

— SERVICE TO THE INDUSTRY

Service to the insurance industry has always played a huge role in what Dennis has done. He served on the Executive Committee of IIA of Arkansas for nearly 20 years, and as State President as well. During these years, he also served as Chair of numerous committees, including the Education Foundation, which was the impetus for the fundraising and construction of our current office building. The non-profit Foundation was formed in March 2000 with an ultimate goal of raising funds for the purchase of land, construction, and furnishing of offices to house all IIAA Arkansas activities. After receiving pledges and actual dollars of over \$600,000 and financing of \$1,100,000, ground was broken on April 23, 2008. The Big I of Arkansas moved into our current location on September 15, 2008. That has certainly proven to be one of the best actions ever taken by our Association.

Dennis also started the Big I Insurance Youth Golf Classic in Arkansas and was State Chair of that for many years before being appointed to the National IYGC Committee for six years, the last three as its National Chair. Following that, he was the Tournament Director for National IYGC Tournaments held in Texarkana in 1989 and at Chenal CC in Little Rock in 1993. Immediately following

those six years on the National IYGC Committee, Dennis was appointed to the National Big I Advertising Committee for three years. During that time, the Big I contracted with Raymond Burr (Perry Mason), who became prominently featured in Big I advertising in addition to taking over as the National Sponsor of the Big I Houston PGA Golf Tournament. Dennis was extremely involved in running that tournament over those three years.

— COMMUNITY, STATE AND CHURCH

Young has also served his community, state and church continually in numerous roles over many years. He was elected to the State House of Representatives for three terms, from 1993 to 1999, as well as serving on the Texarkana City Board of Directors from 1979 to 1986. He is the past Chairperson of the Arkansas State Golf Association, the Texarkana Regional Museum, and Texarkana First United Methodist Church, as well as numerous other local organizations. Dennis is the current Chair of Life Net Ambulance Services, with locations in Texarkana, Hot Springs, and Oklahoma City. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Arkansas-Louisiana Ronald McDonald House Charities and the ASGA Board, and is the Lay Leader of his church.

— IN HIS WORDS

Young states that the many things he has accomplished in life would not have been possible without being a member of the Big I, as well as the assistance and friendships of so many others, in addition to his entire family.

“

I've been extremely fortunate to have been one of those 'dogs who sold insurance for a living.'

DENNIS YOUNG