



DELAWARE STATE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
183<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

The State Chamber thanks this year's  
Annual Dinner Planning Committee:

Greg Smith, Chair  
The Chemours Company

Kevin Broadhurst  
Comcast

Bob Byrd  
The Byrd Group, LLC

Jerry Esposito  
Tidewater Utilities, Inc.

Donald T. Fulton  
Weiner Benefits Group

Martha S. Gilman  
Gilman Development Company

Jason D. Gonzalez  
DuPont

Michael Houghton  
Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, LLP

Chris Manning  
Nemours Childrens' Health System

Don Mell  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Chad Moore  
Beacon Hospitality

Bettina Tweardy Riveros  
ChristianaCare

Rhett Ruggerio  
Ruggerio Willson & Associates, LLC

Chip Rossi  
Bank of America

Fred Sears  
Delaware Community Foundation, retired

Matt Stehl  
M&T Bank



## Chair's Message

BY GARY STOCKBRIDGE

With this being my final message as your Chairman, I've tried to think of a word that best fits with the ending of my tenure and the many successes we've had over the past two years. I keep coming back to the word "change." When some hear the word change, it can bring a bit of

nervousness and uneasiness. But the changes that we've embraced and continue to advocate for, are making us stronger and are helping propel this organization and Delaware to continued success.

One important change I'd like to highlight is the transition of my role to Katie Wilkinson as Board Chairwoman. Katie is the first female chair in the organization's 183-year history – a milestone long overdue. She currently serves as senior vice president and Delaware Commercial Market executive for Fulton Bank. In her role, she is responsible for the development and cultivation of commercial relationships across the State of Delaware and Cecil County. I'm extremely happy to see Katie in this role, which will provide a change in leadership that I know will continue moving the Chamber to many more successes for our members.

Katie's appointment caps off a year where we made incredible progress with our diversity and inclusion efforts. Accomplishments that come to mind include:

- We formed a subgroup of members from the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors to evaluate the organization's role in driving inclusion and diversity – both internally and externally.
- We made it a goal to make our Board of Governors more diverse and representative of the Delaware business community, as well as identify the role we should play in this extremely important conversation.
- We created a Diverse Supplier Directory to help Chamber members and potential partners easily find companies who qualify as a diverse supplier.
- We successfully hosted the 2nd Annual Developing Delaware event in October, where our message was clear: "Tell all business leaders that they need to take charge of how they attract, develop and retain their organization's talent; demanding that they focus on people and actively supporting inclusion."

I'm sure this area of focus will remain a big topic for the Chamber in the years to come. It is my belief that, as an organization, we must continue to not only advocate for policy that supports the business community, but that also makes Delaware a place where all are welcome and diversity is our strength. Diverse and inclusive workplaces ultimately foster innovation and increase economic performance in our communities and our state.

If there is one accomplishment I hope we achieved during my tenure, it is that we helped our Chamber create a foundation of support in Delaware for a diverse workforce and inclusive environment for all of our businesses. Again, thank you all for your support and partnership over the years. It has been an honor to serve as your Chairman. I look forward to seeing Katie's strong leadership skills at work as she takes over and guides our ongoing efforts to carry on Delaware's legacy as a great place for the business community to thrive.