

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government  
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom  
November 20, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Nick Wasileski called the board meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**This emergency meeting was called to discuss unfinished business concerning the Reception for Elected Officials and the search for a president to fill the term of Keith Steck who had resigned for personal health reason.**

**PRESENT:** Letty Diswood, Al Jackson, John Kowalko III, Nick Wasileski, Davis Breen, John Morgan,

**ABSENT:** John Flaherty Coralie Pryde, Anita Rush.

**DelCOG members:** Katherine Ward. Bill Cortes

**UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- 1. Nick Wasileski discussed the need to find a liaison to the NFOIC board to represent DelCOG.**
- 2. Reception for Elected Officials:** Katherine Ward gave update of plans in place and what needs to be decided tonight.
  - a. Sponsor checks should be sent to John Flaherty, Nick Wasileski will Pick up the checks from Flaherty and take them to Anita Rush, treasurer.
  - b. Invitation emails have been sent to all the elected officials, statewide and the Delaware General Assembly including county councils and cities and towns.
  - c. Ward will meet with persons from Ed Oliver Golf Club to make final arrangements.
  - d. Nominations to receive awards were discussed.
    1. Good Government for the People Award. Nick Wasileski Nominated the organization Campaign to End Debtor's Prison. He noted volunteers Lynne Keeler and Meryem Dede are the leaders of the organization and Representative Sean Lynn sponsor of the bill H.B. 244 that passed and reforms Delawares fines and fees system.
    2. Distinguished Journalism Award. Nick Wasileski nominated *Delaware Call* an online newsletter sponsored by Network Delaware. Drew Serres is the Network Coordinator.
    3. John Morgan nominated the organization Rise Delaware that filed a law suite to stop the state from forcing state retirees out of their health care plan and into a Medicaid Advantage Plan.
    4. Katherine Ward nominated *News Journal* reporter Amanda Fries for the Distinguished Journalism Award. She has done some excellent work for some time and especially her recent reporting on the lead found in water and the issue of lead testing statewide and the controversy that the public and teachers were not informed about the test results in a timely manner.

After extensive discussion the following motions were made:

John Kowalko III moved to nominate Amada Freeze for the Distinguished Journalism Award. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

John Kowalko III moved to nominate the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison for the Good Government for the People Award. The motion was seconded and passed by majority vote.

John Morgan moved to nominate Rise Delaware for the Good Government for the People Award. The motion did not receive a second.

3. Search for a new president to fill vacated position. It would require completing a term for one year. Discussion centered on possible nominees including John Kowalko II and Nick Wasileski. Nominations should have been sent to John Flaherty who was absent from this meeting. It was decided to defer the nomination and vote to the next board meeting with more board members present.
4. The discussion then centered on who would officiate the Reception for Elected Officials and make the award presentations.
  - a. Suggestions to be confirmed
    - John Flaherty to be MC of the event and he will also be close to be the door to recognize officials.
    - Katherine needs details of the recipients' names and titles for the awards.
    - Nick will write up and present the award to the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison. It should include why they are receiving the award.
    - Katherine Ward and Amy Roe will put together the information about the lead in water and schools. And Katharine will make award to Amanda Freeze.
    - All Jackson will sign the award certificates as current president. He will serve until his successor is elected in January 2023.
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5. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Submitted by Letty Diswood, Secretary