



The CHAMBER



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



Executive Director

Ask some and they will say this has been another year stuck in a vicious cycle of “*The Twilight Zone*” but for me, it is rapidly coming to a close. Maybe it’s having young children and realizing how quickly they grow, or perhaps it was the newness of this job; whatever the reason, it is November and this means the Chamber is closing in on its final programs and events for the year.

Next week, on Tuesday, November 9, we will celebrate our 2020/2021 honorees at the Outstanding Business Recognition Dinner. Congratulations to **UPMC Western Maryland**, *Business of the Year*, **Donny & Kristan Carter**, *Entrepreneurial Spirit*, and **DelFest, LLC**, *Community Service*. The Western Maryland Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) will honor **Andrea Lowery** as *Outstanding Young Professional*. We had to take a different approach to advertising and invitations this year, so notices were sent in Weekly e-News and in an email blast, as well as through direct email to last year’s ticket holders. Unfortunately, today is the final day to purchase tickets so if you have not done so yet please call us at 301-722-2820 so that we can finalize our numbers.

Our **Membership Committee** has been hard at work to provide a broad spectrum of opportunities to you. Check out the flyers in this newsletter about our **HR Workshop** on Tuesday, November 17 at 4 pm. This virtual program will feature Charlotte Clark from **IBM** and Doug

Desmarais from Smith & Downey, P.A. Also available on Tuesday, November 23 at 8am is a hybrid program with the **Maryland Insurance Admin-**

istration. You can RSVP to Peg at peg@alleganycountychamber.com. Please mark your calendars also on Tuesday, November 17 for an update on the *Task Force on the Economic Future of Western MD* from the **Western MD Delegation** during the **Economic Development Committee** meeting at 8 am. This meeting is hybrid and if you wish to join via Zoom, you will need to contact us for the link. On Thursday, December 16, our **Legislative Committee** will host the **Delegation** for a traditional *Pre-Legislative Breakfast* at 7:30 am. Watch for more details on all of this soon.

The **Annual Membership Meeting** will take place on Thursday, December 2 at noon at the Cumberland Country Club. Please plan to attend to meet the candidates running for Board of Directors, and a *Year in Review*. The following week on Thursday, December 9 is the Holiday Reception at Allegany Museum from 4-7 pm. We hope to see you there!

I am working over the next two months to lay the groundwork for 2022 and encourage you to reach out to me if there are areas of work that you feel the Chamber should consider. I have been blessed with amazing teams of people and have little doubt that if there is something you believe you should have as part of your membership that we can’t find a way to make it happen.

Juli McCoy
Executive Director

NOVEMBER 2021

Volume XXXIX No. 11
Bell Tower Building
Cumberland, MD 21502

November Calendar

November 3

8:00 am
Membership Committee Meeting
Hybrid

November 4

9:00 am
Local Business Showcase Meeting
Hybrid

November 9

6:00 pm
Annual Recognition Dinner
Ali Ghan Shrine Club

November 10

5:30 – 7:30 pm
Chamber After Hours
Locust Post Brewery

November 15

8:15 am
Leadership Allegany! Alumni Com.
Hybrid
Noon
Marketing Committee Meeting
Hybrid

November 16

8:00 am
Leadership Allegany! Steering Com.
Hybrid

November 17

8:00 am
Economic Dev. Comm. Meeting
Hybrid
4:00 pm
HR Workshop
Virtual

November 18

8:00 am
Education Committee Meeting
Hybrid
9:00 am
Leadership Allegany! Rising
Committee Meeting
Hybrid
Noon
Board of Directors Meeting
Hybrid

November 23

8:00 am
MD Insurance Admin. Workshop
Hybrid

December 1

8:00 am
Membership Committee Meeting
Hybrid
9:00 am
Golf Committee Meeting
Hybrid

December 2

Noon
Annual Membership Meeting
Cumberland Country Club



Special thanks to our Platinum Sponsors:
**ACT 1st Federal Credit Union, M & T Bank, and
 Rocky Gap Casino Resort**
 and our Gold Sponsors:

Allegheny Coal and Land Company,
 Berry Global, CES at Frostburg State University,
 Startup Portal and
 Western Maryland Health System.



ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presents

“CHAMBER AFTER HOURS”



**Sponsored by: LOCUST POST BREWERY, JONATHAN FRYE INSURANCE AGENCY and
RUSCO HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Locust Post Brewery

31706 Old Adams Road
Little Orleans, MD 21766

(Directions: Take Exit 68 on I68, left on Orleans Road, left on National Pike, first left on Old Adams Road,
brewery is on the left. ¾ miles from the exit)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us for Networking, Appetizers & Beverages

\$5.00 registration fee collected at the door – Must be 21 years old to attend

Craft Beer by Locust Post Brewery

Food prepared by Locust Post Brewery sponsored by Jonathan Frye Insurance Agency

Live Music: Pipes of Steel sponsored by Rusco Home Improvement

NETWORK & WIN - \$3,000

Must be pre-registered and present to win

Please RSVP by Thursday, November 4, 2021 to:

**Allegany County
Chamber of Commerce**

24 Frederick Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-2820

(301) 722-5995 (fax)

peg@alleganycountychamber.com

Organization Name

Member Names

Member Guests



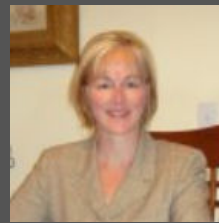
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

HR WORKSHOP

A discussion on:

- *Employee & employer rights*
- *Legalities*
- *Unemployment*
- *Telework*
- *...and more!*

Featuring



**Charlotte
Clark**

IBM



**Douglas
Desmarais**

Smith &
Downey, P.A.



**November 17, 2021
4.00 PM**



**Virtual
Zoom Session**

**Free to Chamber
Members**

**Must register in
advance.**

Register:

peg@alleganycountychamber.com

How the Maryland Insurance Administration Can Help You:



A Conversation with Maryland Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Birrane

Date: November 23rd, 2021

Time: 8am

Location: This is a hybrid event with seats available in the Chamber Board Room. If you wish to join virtually, you may do so by following this link: ow.ly/I0ys50GzxgS

RSVP: Peg, peg@alleganymountychamber.com

**ALLEGANY COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
NOTICE OF
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce will be held on **Thursday, December 2, 2021** at the Cumberland Country Club beginning at noon.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Mr. James Crowder, has submitted the following names of candidates for the Board of Directors to serve a term of three years, expiring December 2024.

Ahmad H. Ahmad, *Rocky Gap Casino Resort*
Catie M. Brenneman, *AHEC West*
Robert A. Godfrey, *UPMC Western Maryland*
Mary Jane Marker, *R. H. Lapp and Sons*
Marisa Bowen Miller, *IBM*
Seth A. Sgaggero, *Sgaggero Event Planning*

Additional names of candidates to serve as directors can be nominated by petition bearing the signature of at least five (5) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition should be filed with the Nominating Committee prior to November 30, 2021. Bios provided by the candidates are attached.

Lunch will be served at a cost of \$25.00 per person. Please RSVP by detaching and returning the reservation form, emailing peg@alleganycountychamber.com, or by phoning the Chamber office (301-722-2820) no later than Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

Allegany County Chamber of Commerce
Bell Tower Building, 24 Frederick Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502
Phone 301-722-2820, Fax 301-722-5995
E-mail: peg@alleganycountychamber.com

**2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
CUMBERLAND COUNTRY CLUB**

NAMES: _____

COMPANY: _____

_____ will attend (my check for \$ _____ is enclosed)

_____ will not attend

Make checks payable to the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD

VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

AHMAD H. AHMAD

Ahmad Ahmad is the Assistant General Manager at Rocky Gap Casino Resort. He brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in hospitality, operations and the gaming entertainment industry. Prior to joining Rocky Gap Casino Resort in 2020, he held executive leadership positions with leading hospitality and gaming entertainment companies such as Penn National Gaming, Caesars/Eldorado, Bally's and Maryland Live Casino Hotels. Ahmad had the pleasure of serving on the Dearborn County, IN Chamber of Commerce board and was awarded the "Key to the City" from the city of Lawrenceburg during his tenure in Indiana for his leadership, strong focus on economic development and building/maintaining excellent relationships on local and state government levels.

CATIE M. BRENNEMAN

Catie Brenneman is the Healing Allegany Program Coordinator at AHEC West. The Healing Allegany Project is a multi-year initiative aimed at strengthening and expanding substance use and opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Previous to her current role, she served as the Mountain Health Alliance Network Director. Throughout her career, Catie has worked one-on-one with diverse, underserved populations including individuals living with chronic disease and oral health conditions, homeless individuals and families, those fleeing domestic violence, the uninsured and underinsured, and individuals challenged by substance abuse and mental health diagnoses. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Marshall University and holds a Master of Public Administration from Ohio University. A varied work history

that includes a psychiatric facility in West Virginia, a domestic violence and homeless shelter in Virginia Beach and health-insurance counseling in Western Maryland has provided her with a unique perspective as a Program Coordinator. These diverse experiences have allowed her to gain insight into the needs of the community she serves. A native of Frederick County, she resides in Cumberland with her husband, Ryan, two pit bulls and a cat. Catie owns Allegany Media, a local media and livestreaming small business, alongside her husband.

ROBERT A. GODFREY

Robert Godfrey is a Behavioral Health Therapist at UMPC Western Maryland. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, holding Bachelor of Social Work degree from Alderson Broaddus University and a Master of Social Work degree from West Virginia University. He has held clinical and supervisory positions at the West Virginia Children's Home, Salem Children's Trust, Allegany County Health Department and The Jefferson School at Finan (a program of Sheppard Pratt Health System). Robert most recently was Executive Director at Friends Aware, Inc., a position he held for 10 years. He is a 2013 graduate of **Leadership Allegany!**, where he was honored to be named Valedictorian. Robert is active in his church as well as local community theatre productions. His contributions to the community include Vice-Chair of the **Leadership Allegany!** Steering Committee, ACM Human Services Advisory Committee and PACE Committee. Robert is also the President of radioACTIVE, a teambuilding company focused on positivity, inclusion, and group dynamics. He resides in

Cumberland with his wife of 30 years, Laura. They are the proud parents of Teacher Emma, Nurse Robin and Marine Patrick.

MARY JANE MARKER

Mary Jane Marker is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and the Vice President of R. H. Lapp & Sons, Inc., where she has worked since 1999. She also serves as the Company Controller and became a stockholder in 2003. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and an Associate Degree in Electronic Data Processing from Fairmont State University in 1986. She successfully completed the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam in 1990. Mary Jane has worked as a CPA for over 25 years, starting her career at the Harrison County Board of Education in Clarksburg, WV before moving to Cumberland, MD. In Cumberland, she has worked in public accounting for Huber, Michael & Company, preparing tax returns, financial reporting and auditing. She also worked at Kelly-Springfield Tire Company in the Financial Analysis department for over eight years. Mary Jane resides in Grantsville, MD with her husband Bryan. Together they have 4 children and 7 grandchildren which are the heart of their world.

MARISA BOWEN MILLER

Marisa Bowen Miller is a Senior Talent Acquisition Partner at IBM Consulting – Federal. Marisa leads all early professional, apprenticeship and experienced professional hiring in the IBM Client Innovation Center at Rocket Center, WV. She has played an integral part in the expansion of the IBM Center, increasing the workforce by over 47% in only a few years. In 2018 Marisa lead the talent acquisition launch of the first Application Developer Apprenticeship program in West Virginia which creates workforce development opportunities in underserved regions. Today, she has added two more apprenticeship programs in Networking

Cybersecurity at IBM in WV. Before joining IBM in 2017 Marisa held various positions in Sales, Marketing, Event Management and Talent Acquisition throughout Baltimore, DC and Cumberland. Marisa attended Frostburg State University receiving her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications with a focus in Marketing and Advertising, a masters in Teaching from Frostburg State University and attended an Event Management Program at George Washington University. Marisa was raised in the Cumberland area where she attended Allegany High School. She and her husband Jason currently live in LaVale where they are raising their three children Evie (9), Harbor (7) and Caleb (15).

SETH A. SGGAGERO

Seth Sgaggero is the Owner and Certified Senior Event Planner for Sgaggero Event Planning. He also works full time for IBM as the North America Learning & Knowledge Education Delivery Event Manager. In this role he is responsible for managing the logistics involved with planning and delivery of classroom training events for IBM GBS practitioners. He has always been involved in his community serving on numerous boards and volunteering wherever he can. Currently, he serves as the Frankfort Athletic Booster Corresponding Secretary, Vice President of the Mineral County CASA Board of Directors, Frankfort High School Assistant Cheerleading Coach and as a judge for the Chief Learning Officer magazine's LearningElite program which honors the best organizations for learning and development. Since joining the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce in 2019, he has been actively involved; currently serving as Chairman of the Local Business Showcase, Vice Chairman of the Membership Committee, a member of the Marketing Committee, Lucky Ladies Night Out Committee and is a participant in the **Leadership Allegany!** Class of 2021/2022.

Chamber Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

6:00 pm Social Hour • 7:00 pm Dinner

Ali Ghan Shrine Club

"Chamber After Hours"

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Hosted by: Locust Post Brewery
and Jonathan Frye Insurance Agency



Items Needed For New Member Welcome Bags

The Chamber's Membership Committee is in the process of putting together items to include in a welcome bag to be distributed to new members joining the Chamber in the coming year. We would like the gift bag to include a variety of items such as coffee mugs, coupons, trinkets, and unique ad specialty items.

If your business has an interest in welcoming new members to the Chamber by inclusion of your items in the new member welcome bag please contact the Chamber office at 301-722-2820 or by e-mail to peg@alleganymountychamber.com. To accommodate the number of new members joining the Chamber in the coming year we ask that you provide a quantity of 25 items to be included in the welcome bag.

New Members

(patronize these members and welcome them to the Chamber)

Garrett Anesthesia and Pain Management dba Gonzaga Health

957 National Highway

LaVale, Maryland 21502

301-729-9475

Fax: 240-362-7129

www.gonzagahealth.com

Contact: Tamara Early, Human Resources Manager

E-mail: tearly@gonzagapainm.com

Category: Healthcare Facility

Physical Therapy

Acupuncture

Description: *A multi-specialty private healthcare facility offering services in interventional management and physical medicine, family medicine and pediatrics, physical therapy and acupuncture.*

Ledo Pizza

1266 National Highway

LaVale, Maryland 21502

301-338-6200

www.ledopizza.com

Contact: Mike Amezcua, Owner

E-mail: amezcua1956@hotmail.com

Category: Restaurant

Catering

Description: *Ledo's is a restaurant selling Italian food and is open for lunch and dinner.*

Little Caesars

505 Springdale Street

Cumberland, Maryland 21502

301-777-7050

Contact: Gloria Schintzius, Owner

E-mail: lccumberlandmd@gmail.com

Category: Restaurant

Description: *Quick service pizza restaurant known for its \$5 Hot-N-Ready Classic Pizza*



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome Ledo Pizza to the Chamber and to Allegany County. They are located at 1266 National Highway, LaVale, Maryland. At LaVale Ledo Pizza it's never been easier to get a fast and delicious square pizza to satisfy your hunger. Stop by and see them, call to place a takeout order, 301-338-6200 or order your Ledo Pizza online!

To learn more about them please visit their website at:
www.ledopizza.com.

Front Row – left to right:

Dawn Lewis, M & T Bank, Chamber Membership Committee member
Amy Shillingburg, Rusco Home Improvement, Chamber Membership Committee member
Kristi Minnigh, The Kristi Agency – Allstate Insurance, Chamber Board of Director and Membership Committee member
Parika Andreassen, Hampton Inn Cumberland, Chamber Board of Director member
Tamara Kavlik, Operations Manager, Ledo Corporation

DeAnne Barton, Restaurant Manager, LaVale Ledo
Mike Amezcua, Owner, LaVale Ledo
Jamie Beall, President, Ledo Pizza Corporation
Sarena Rodeheaver, First United Bank and Trust
Nicole Wigfield, Skypacket Networks, Chamber Immediate Past Chairwoman of the Board of Directors
Nathan Price, Allegany County Economic and Community Development

Second Row – left to right:

Seth Sgaggero, Sgaggero Event Planning, Membership Committee Vice Chair
Juli McCoy, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
Jim Van, Forever Media
Robert Godfrey, UPMC Western Maryland, First Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors
County Commissioner David Caporale, Allegany County
Blake Walker, First United Bank and Trust
Delegate Michael McKay, Western Maryland Delegation
Steve MacGray, Charis Realty, Chamber Membership Committee member



HR Workshop
Wednesday,
November 17, 2021

4:00 pm
Virtual

Maryland Insurance
Administration Workshop
Tuesday,
November 23, 2021

8:00 am
Chamber Boardroom – Hybrid

Chamber Annual
Membership Meeting
Thursday,
December 2, 2021

Noon
Cumberland Country Club



Celebrates 115th Birthday

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce proudly celebrated our 115th birthday In April. Throughout 2021, each month, we are providing our members with interesting tidbits of Chamber history. Last month's newsletter showcased the Greater Cumberland Industrial Exposition.

This month's newsletter article focuses on the issue of education. The Chamber's passion for education dates back many years. In the 1960's the Chamber had a very active Education Committee which conducted Business-Education Day programs, Guidance Counselor programs, and Teacher of the Year dinners. Business-Education programs were an excellent way to connect educators with members of the business community. The Chamber persuaded area businessmen to take advantage of the opportunity to visit schools in a reciprocal program designed to keep businessmen aware of the intricacies of the school system. To advise guidance counselors in the schools on job opportunities and various allied subjects the Chamber established the Guidance Counselor program. They also began a Speakers Bureau. At the October 25, 1962 board meeting discussion was held and it was decided the Chamber would take the lead in establishing a Speakers Bureau – "business subjects that the school system could draw on for various informative programs. The board of directors recognized that it could be a very complicated problem, but there appeared to be a deplorable lack of knowledge in economic subjects and that every opportunity should be taken to make both teachers and students aware of the realities of our economic system." Ironically your Chamber's Education Committee in 2021 has also begun the process of creating a Speakers Bureau.

In November of 1964 a contingency of Chamber board members and three assistant supervisors of the school system visited Bucks County, Pennsylvania to tour their technical vocational school. The visit originated from a conversation with Chamber members who indicated that existing industries were in need of trained personnel and industries interested in locating in the county have always questioned the Chamber as to what facilities were available for vocational technical training. During the December 1964 board meeting it was announced that the Chamber's Education Committee had set up a meeting "between 9 representatives of the School Board, Department of Employment Security, Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners and personnel directors of the major industries to discuss technical-vocational education programs. The Education Committee would like to determine from business and industrial leaders what they want in the way of vocational and technical training". The program to be decided on was:

1. Do we want it?
2. At what level – high school, adult, post high school
3. How extensive should it be?
4. Are we willing to pay for it?
5. How will it be financed? There are a number of governmental programs which might be used to establish the program.

At the April 1965 Board of Directors meeting, it was announced that the Chamber Executive Planning Committee and Education Committee were continuing to study the Vocational and Technical situation. They asked the Chamber Board of Directors for approval of "a plan under which the Chamber would offer the School Board a group of consultants from industry and business to assist in establishing courses which would be of the most value to all the participants. On a motion made by Robert Little Ebert, seconded by Leslie Helmer and approved the Chamber offered the assistance of industrial and business consultants to the school board for this program". Numerous meetings were held on the issue. At the May 1965 board meeting Mort Peskin expressed "the opinion that the program would never be developed sufficiently within the high schools themselves and should be in a separate facility". The minutes further indicated "that not enough emphasis is being placed on the possibility of making a living in the vocations with too much emphasis on the white-collar professions. High school students need to realize that a good living can be made as electricians, plumbers or some other likely vocation". On a motion made by Robert Little Ebert, seconded by Mort Peskin and unanimously passed the Chamber conducted an in-depth study of the type of program needed in Allegany County. Richard Dayton, of the Telephone Company, was appointed chair of the committee. At the April 1966 meeting it was announced that the "Board of Education would like the Chamber to prepare a study which will show the extent of vocational technical training needed in our school system and insofar as possible the type of training it should be and the circumstances under which it should be given; that is whether or not it should be developed in the high schools or under a separate facility."

At the same time the study was being conducted another committee comprised of Chamber board members Edward Ewald, Richard Dayton, Carl Belt, Sr. and Robert Zimmer were tasked with meeting with the Board of Education and high school guidance counselors to help improve the vocational-technical aspect of the educational system and to determine what type of training may be needed as well as determining if that training should be developed in the high schools or at a separate facility. The committee prepared job specifications to be used by the guidance counselors and also prepared a program which included visitations by the counselors to various types of businesses and industries for the establishment of summer temporary jobs for the counselors in order to receive first-hand knowledge of the job requirements needed for both high school and college graduates.

But the story does not end here. Be sure to check in next month for more information about the Vocational-Technical training school. Stay tuned!!



Notice of Annual Meeting of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Cumberland Country Club

Noon

\$25.00 per person

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **James Crowder**, *FirstEnergy Corporation*, has recommended the following candidates to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors:

Ahmad H. Ahmad, *Rocky Gap Casino Resort*

Catie M. Brenneman, *AHEC West*

Robert A. Godfrey, *UPMC Western Maryland*

Mary Jane Marker, *R. H. Lapp and Sons*

Marisa Bowen Miller, *IBM*

Seth A. Sgaggero, *Sgaggero Event Planning*

According to the Chamber By-Laws, "additional names of candidates for directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signature of at least five (5) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition(s) shall be final." The deadline for submitting write in candidates is Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

Elections will be held at the beginning of the luncheon.

IMPORTANT!

At the Annual Meeting on December 2nd
your vote is important to the candidates.

In order for your company to cast its full share of votes,
the correct names of your designated representatives
must be on file at the Chamber office.

If you are in doubt about who your voting representatives
are please direct your verification and/or changes of your
voting representatives to Peg McKenzie at the
Chamber office – 301-722-2820.



Chamber Holiday Reception Sponsorship Opportunity



The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for our **Annual Holiday Reception**. The event will be held on **Thursday, December 9th** from **4:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at the Allegany Museum, 3 Pershing Street, Cumberland, Maryland.

The reception is always well attended and provides a great opportunity to gain exposure for your business. There will be great food, drink, fellowship, dancing and of course unlimited networking!!

Sponsorship at a cost of \$500.00 provides the following:

- Company logo in monthly newsletter
- Company logo in weekly enews
- Company logo on flier advertising the event
- Table tent card with your company name displayed throughout the event
- Company name on sign at entrance to event
- Photo in the January newsletter and on the Chamber website

Please contact the Chamber office if you have an interest in sponsoring the Chamber's Holiday Reception at 301-722-2820.



The
CHAMBER

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

The Chamber News is published monthly by
the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

www.alleganycountychamber.com

Juli R. McCoy, Executive Director

Allegany County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Officers

Chairman: **Jeffery D. O'Neal**

First Vice Chairman: **Robert A. Godfrey**

Second Vice Chairman: **James S. Crowder**

Immediate Past Chairwoman: **Nicole R. Wigfield**