

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Virtual Annual Meeting by Zoom
Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: President John Kowalko III called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Breen, Letty Diswood, John Flaherty, Al Jackson, John Kowalko III, Coralie Pryde, Anita Rush, Cynthia Smith, Nick Wasileski.

Members and public: There were an additional 39 attendees presents.

WELCOME: President John Kowalko welcomed all to the DelCOG Annual Meeting and thanked speakers Claire Snyder-Hall, Executive Director, Common Cause, Delaware, and Shannon Manigault, Inspector General, City of Atlanta, Georgia.

ANNUAL REPORT:

Kowalko summarized DelCOG’s activities of the last two years, invited attendees present to join DelCOG, and noted it was free (no membership fee).

He then introduced our speakers. The meeting information is listed at the end of these minutes.

1. **Ms. Snyder-Hall** discussed the importance of transparency in government and the “Delaware Way.”
2. **IG Manigault** spoke of her experiences as IG in Atlanta, Georgia, the issues she encountered setting up the IG office, and gave her insights on what to watch out for after passing any legislation and implementation.
3. **Q & A** – a lively and informative session followed, which included a wide variety of questions, and comments.

A recording will be available on YouTube shortly after this meeting.

4. Announcement of election results for officers to serve on DelCOG Board.

John Flaherty, Nominating Committee Chair, announced the following Officers:

President: John Kowalko III
Vice-president: Albert (Al) Jackson
Secretary: Letty Diswood
Treasurer: Anita Rush

5. Kowalko thanked our speakers and all for attending the annual meeting and noted that all DelCOG meetings are open to anyone. He noted that Sam Waltz encouraged the board to meet in person rather than only by Zoom. This will be discussed at the next meeting. DelCOG is a statewide organization.
6. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by:
Letty Diswood

Below are the outline of the Annual meeting and the bios of the speakers.



The Most Important and Effective Public Official You Never Heard Of:

An Inspector General and Why Delaware Needs One

A Virtual DelCOG Annual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM EST

The Delaware Coalition for Open Government invites you to join us for a program featuring experts on transparency and accountability and why both principles should matter to Delaware citizens.

[Register here for the DelCOG Annual Meeting.](#)

Annual Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 p.m. Welcome and DELCOG Annual Report – President John Kowalko III
- 7:20 p.m. Claire Snyder-Hall on The Need for Greater Transparency in Delaware
- 7:40 p.m. Shannon Manigault on The Role of and Need for an Inspector General
- 8:00 p.m. Q & A / Comments from Audience – John Kowalko III, Moderator

Claire Snyder-Hall, Executive Director, Common Cause Delaware since 2021

Writer, speaker, activist, and advocate, Ms. Snyder-Hall has taught courses in American political thought, democratic theory and more at various universities, including George Mason, Illinois State, Rutgers, and Princeton.

She is experienced in community building and has worked as a lobbyist for democracy reform in the Delaware state legislature.

Some of her most recent research focused on ways to strengthen connections between state-level elected officials and public life.

Author of *Battling the Prince: A Woman Fights for Democracy*, she was co-editor of *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics and Culture* for several years.

She holds a B.A. from Smith College and a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University.

Shannon Manigault, Inspector General, City of Atlanta, Georgia, since 2021

Ms. Manigault previously worked in the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) as IG of 5 NYC agencies and led an investigative team probing criminal misconduct, ranging from bribery and insurance theft to narcotics sales and credit card fraud.

As legislative counsel for the New York City Council, she drafted and negotiated legislation regarding procurement of goods, services, and construction, and coordinated Council oversight of city agencies.

She also clerked for the Hon. John C. Lifland (ret.) in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey and later served as a litigation associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. She earned an A.B. from Harvard College and a JD from Harvard Law School.